Memoirs of the Seymours and My Boyhood Memories

By

John Seymour

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Dedication

To all my Seymour ancestors and the positive impact they have made on the lives of their descendants. May it serve as a reflection on the aspirations of past generations of the Seymour family.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful for the people who supported me over the past several years in the preparation of this document.

- To my cousin, Jane Totah Davis, for many of the early photos and background information about the Seymours in Orange. Jane died on 24 March 2022 at age 94. Her enthusiasm motivated me to keep digging deeper in the history of the Seymour family.

- To my cousin, Justin Seymour, who uncovered our earliest family photo, a tintype of my great-grandmother, Selina Browne Seymour, holding my grandfather, Arthur in 1877.

- To my sister, Tina, for Arthur Seymours genealogical notes from 1906 and for the Comments from...A Main Street Lawyer.

- To my sister, Anne, for Pop's mementos. letters home to Ma and Pop and his 1928 Law School Certificate.

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- To researcher, Vince Dahmen, who made several visits to the Browne plot at St. Mark's Episcopal Cemetery in Orange where Selina Browne was first buried.

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- To genealogist, Ann Boldt, who found the death and naturalization records at the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton.

-- To cousin Marie Higgins Ippolito, who found the newspaper article on Louvier Seymour death and for adding our information to her website, mariehiggins.tribalpages.com

- To Genealogist Donna Moughty, who compiled a report on the Seymours and assisted in my research in Ireland.

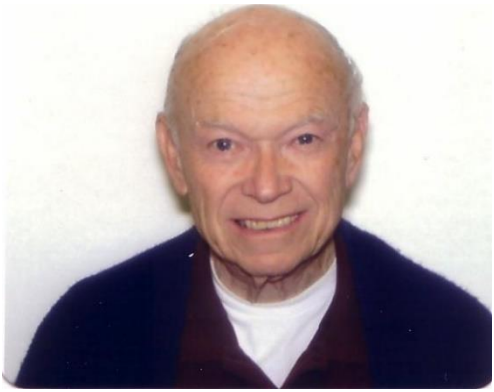
- To Mike Maguire of the Limerick Library, who provided the newspaper accounts of the voyage of the Barque Celeste.

- To Ursula Kelly at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Limerick for taking the time to find all of the Seymour birth, marriage and death records from 1781 to 1873.

- To the reference librarians at the Newark Public Library for the many obituaries from the Newark Evening News and the Star-Ledger.

And, the Internet sites of Find a Grave, Ancestry, Newpapers.com, Family Search and Google for the historical maps, street views and graphics.

About the Author



Greg Seymour is an American of Irish descent. Although Seymour is not considered an Irish surname, it is often associated with Jane Seymour, Queen of England between 1536 and 1537. The author conducted extensive genealogical research on the Seymours, traveling to Ireland in 1988 and 2013. He concluded his Seymour ancestors arrived in Ireland during the period of English Statesman Oliver Cromwell in the mid-1600s'. Church records have proven his ancestors lived in Limerick, Ireland before emigrating to Orange, New Jersey in 1850. In Orange, the Seymour family prospered, rising from hatmakers to first family -- an American success story. Their family story led to the abundance of boyhood memories shared in this book.

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Memoirs of the Seymours and My Boyhood Memories

Memoirs of the Seymours and My Boyhood Memories

Description:

This is my second book; titled Memoirs of the Seymours and My Boyhood Memories. It follows the Memoir of My Navy Career. There are 17 chapters which are briefly described here. Two more books will follow: Memoirs of My Professional Career and Memoirs of My Retirement.

Chapter 1 The Seymour Origins 1080-1680

The Seymour surname originated in western France. Then known as known St. Maur, the name arrived in England with the Norman invasion in 1066. Several generations later, It became Seymour. My Seymour ancestors arrived in Limerick during Oliver Cromwell's invasion during the mid-1600s.

Chapter 2 The Seymours in Limerick, Ireland 1680-1850

The Seymours had notable careers in Limerick city government. Although they were Protestant, over time, some married Roman Catholics. Their records can be traced back to 1680. They lived in the city, were members of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and worked in the hatmaking trade.

Chapter 3 The Seymours in Orange, New Jersey 1850-1952

In July 1850, my great-great grandparents and their two young sons sailed from Limerick to New York on Barque Celeste, a small wooden sailing vessel. In Orange, New Jersey, they worked in the hatmaking industry, opened a saloon and hotel and were elected to prominent positions in city government.

Chapter 4 Grandma Seymour 1883-1966

Grandma Seymour, born Guistina Augusta Lepera in San Demetrio Corone, Cosenza, Italy, had a unique life. Her ancestors were Albanian and Greek, known was Arbëreshë. She emigrated from Naples to New York with her mother, uncle and older sister and lived in Newark, New Jersey until she married Grandpa.

Chapter 5 First Years 1939-1944

During my first year, I lived in an apartment with my parents in Orange, New Jersey. After that we moved to a house in Bloomfield. My oldest sister, Tina, was born in 1941. I started school in 1944.

Chapter 6 Baseball and Basketball 1940-Present

Pop played basketball at Fishburne Military School and I grew up in an area where baseball was truly the national pastime. I was brought up on baseball and have routed for the Cleveland Indians (now Guardians) since they won the World Series in 1948. College basketball became my passion while attending Seton Hall University.

Chapter 7 219 Berkeley Avenue 1940-1956

My home on Berkeley Avenue holds an abundance of happy memories, stopped short by the sudden death of my mother.

Chapter 8 Berkeley School 1944-1951

Memories of kindergarten through sixth grade. It was here I developed self-confidence and established enduring friendships.

Chapter 9 Holiday Memories 1945-1958

Decorated a real Christmas tree and set up my model train set. With great expectations; we peeked into the living room from the top of the stairs to see if Santa had arrived. We celebrated Christmas Eve at Grandpa and Grandma Seymours.

Chapter 10 Childhood Travels 1947-1951

Driving to Schnectady and Willsboro, New York. Train and bus rides to Buffalo. Trips to the Jersey Shore. Riding the Hoboken ferry to New York. Bus trips to Manhattan.

Chapter 11 Pets 1948-Present

Over the years, I owned a colony of rabbits and multiple cats and dogs. One dog, Silky, was a world traveler with his own passport. I now own two cats.

Chapter 12 Making Money 1952-1961

From paper routes, to confectionery stores, to drug stores, to newspaper offices, to cutting grass, to print shops, I always had a job. I was grateful to have the money to pay my way through college.

Chapter 13 Lauren Seymour 1954 to Present

My sister, Lauren, never knew her mother, who died 11 days after she was born. She wanted to know more about her ancestors. This book provides a look into the lives of her biological family.

Chapter 14 Lake Montauk and Cooks Pond 1955-1981

Summer vacations at Montauk Point, Long Island, New York offered the ocean and lake in a quiet country setting. A day trip to Cooks Pond in rural Denville, New Jersey had a sad ending.

Chapter 15 1951 Ford Station Wagon 1956-1961

The “wagon” was a vital part of my life for dating and commuting to school and work during my college years. Despite a major collision in a cemetery, multiple breakdowns and an engine replacement, the wagon survived until graduation.

Chapter 16 Life in the Space Program 1957-2003

When I entered the Navy, satellite communication between aircraft and ground was still in the future. Following designation as a Navy communications subspecialist and training with industry, I participated in a variety of space projects related to satellite communications and reconnaissance.

Chapter 17 Spring Break 1960-1961

On my first trip to Florida, I joined with college classmates on a bus trip from the Seton Hall campus in South Orange, New Jersey to Ft. Lauderdale. I returned to Florida a year later – my first flying experience.

The Seymour Origins 1080-1680

Origin of Seymour Surname

According to the Dictionary of American Family Names, Seymour is a habitational name from Saint-Maur-des-Fosses in Seine, northern France, or possibly from Saint-Maur-sur-Loire in Touraine. Saint-Maur-des-Fosses is a commune in the southeastern suburbs of Paris.

Paris with Saint-Maur-des-Fosses in Red

Saint-Maur-sur-Loire

As shown above, Saint-Maur-sur-Loire is a village of western France in the former province of Touraine on the Loire River. It was founded in the middle of the sixth century as Armorica, at the northwestern extremity of the Roman province of Gaul, now Brittany.

Lands of Armonica 565 A.D.

It is interesting the above map was dated 1318 AUC (*Ab urbe condita*) on the Roman calendar. This meant it had been 1318 years since the founding of the Roman Empire in 753 B.C. This dating was used before Pope Gregory created the Gregorian calendar in 1582.

Seymour DNA Ethnicity Map

Based on my DNA Ethnicity map above, it appears my distant ancestors lived in Saint-Maur-sur-Loire.

The etymology of the Seymour surname has two origins

From *Saint Maur*, a French place name, which commemorates Saint MAURUS.

From an English place name, derived from Old English *sæ* "sea" and *mere* "lake."

Seymour as a Jewish Name

People ask if the name Seymour is Jewish, since many Jews have Seymour as their given name. The name, Seymour, does not have Jewish roots. The given name is identical in origin to the surname. Seymour became a popular name among American Jews of the early to mid-20th century.

In Jewish tradition, every Jew, male and female, is given a Hebrew name, which, outside of Israel, is used mainly for ritual purposes. Quite often, a Jew's Hebrew name is given in memory of an ancestor who had the identical name, and more often than not, that ancestor lived in Europe, where Jews (depending on the country) were known by their Hebrew names only.

In America, immigrant Jews and their descendants were eager to blend into American society, so they kept their Hebrew names for ritual purposes only, and to the rest of society were known by an American name, usually of English origin. Using the Hebrew name as a model, parents gave their children English names that began with the same initial letter or sound. Many Hebrew names begin with S, and thus Jewish parents gave their sons a variety of English names that also began with S, such as Samuel, Saul, Sheldon, Sidney, Simon, Stanley, Steven, Stuart and, Seymour. (In Germany, the same process occurred and many Jewish boys were given the very Germanic name of Siegfried.)

Today, many Jewish boys have names like Sean, Scott and Seth and other popular, or even trendy, names. At the same time, many Jewish parents are doing away with the dual naming practice and are giving their children a Hebrew name (spelled in transliteration) as both their Jewish ritual and secular, legal name.

(Many English names, such as Samuel, Saul and Simon are Hebrew in origin, but in Hebrew are pronounced differently and are

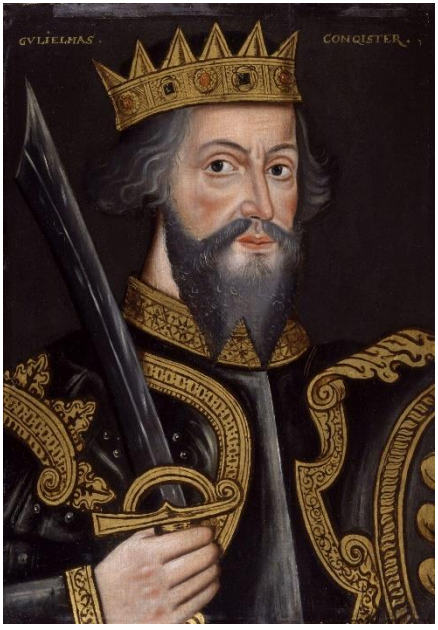
transliterated in English differently. Thus, using the above three as examples: Shmuel, Shaul and Shimon.)”

יִזְרְעֶאל

Yizre'el

English names that are not derived from Hebrew names are normally represented by Hebrew names with similar underlying meanings. Above is the Hebrew name for Seymour.

Seymours Arrive in England



William the Conqueror Circa 1028-1087

The Seymours (St. Maur's) from Saint-Maur-sur-Loire were part of the Norman invasion force that came to England from France with William the Conqueror in 1066. The Normans were descended from the Vikings, who terrorized the Normandy coastline during the eighth century. When the Normans introduced the French language to the English, the idiom, "Pardon My. French" came into use. There are at least 15 variant spellings of Seymour - Semur, Saymer, Seymer, Seymor, Seymore, Seamor, Seamore, Seymoure, Saymor, Semer, Symor, Seamour, Saymour, Seamer, Seamore, and Semor. On the Seymour Crest are the French words Foy Pour Devoir - Faithful to Duty.

The Irish name for Seymour is Saomar. Limerick's Irish name is Luimneach. County Limerick, located in Munster province, was formed by the Normans between 1170 and 1200. The name means "bare spot" or "barren spot of land." The Normans were descended from the Vikings. The Viking name for the county was "Hlymrekr" which meant "mighty noise." Website http://www.tudorplace.com.ar/SEYMOUR.htm provides a look back at over 600 years of Seymours starting with the arrival of the Normans until the arrival of a John Seymour in Limerick, Ireland. It focuses on the Tudor period in England from 1485-1603.

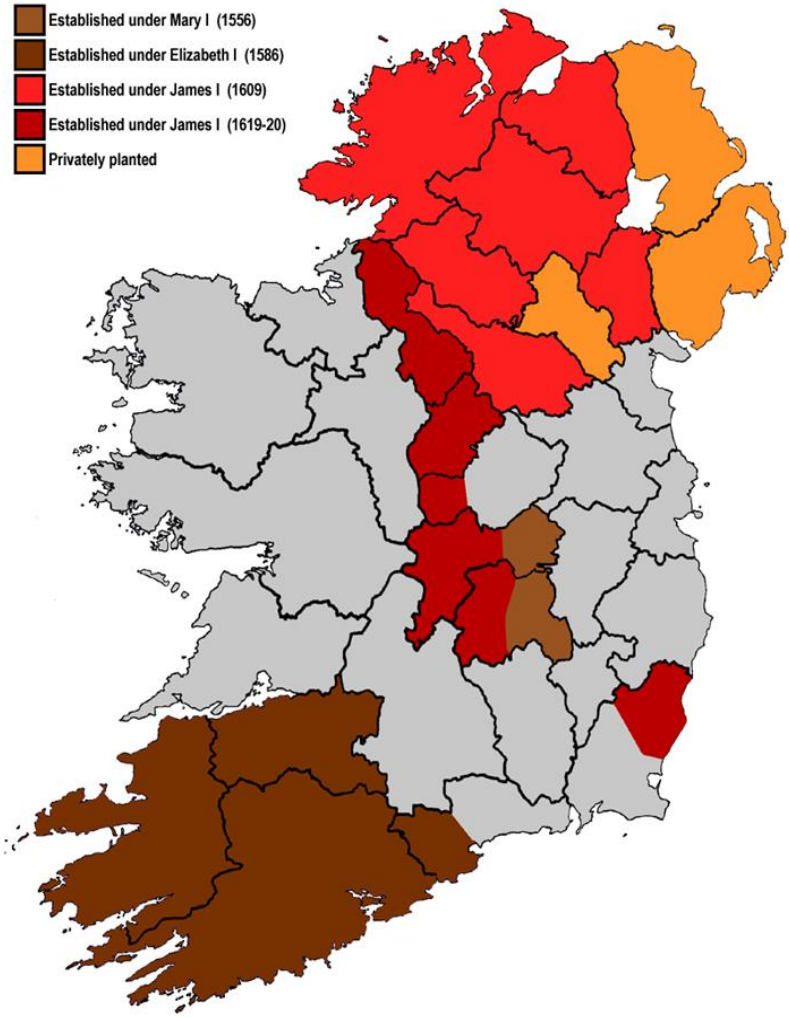
Seymours in England

Over time, the Seymour family increased their wealth and influence by alliances with rich heiresses of noble blood. Although some Seymours served as high sheriffs in Wiltshire in southwest England and others were knighted in the Hundred Years War with the French (1337-1453), a Seymour did not become a historical celebrity or serve as a Knight of the Shire (Member of Parliament). About 250 years after the conquest, the surname was predominantly Seymour.

Seymours in Royalty

Jane Seymour Queen of England 1536-1537 together with humanized version

Jane Seymour, third wife of King Henry VIII was born in Wiltshire in southwest England in 1509, the daughter of Sir John Seymour and Margery Wentworth. She served as Queen from 30 May 1536 to 24 October 1537. She died at age 29 from complications following the birth of her son, Edward VI who became Henry VIII's successor. Jane became known as Henry's favorite of his six wives. Edward VI was the prince in Mark Twain's historical novel, *The Prince and the Pauper.*


Established under Mary I (1556)
Established under Elizabeth I (1586)
Established under James I (1609)
Established under James I (1619-20)
Privately planted

Seymours Occupy Land in Ireland

Based on state papers relating to Ireland during the reign of Elizabeth I on 5 May 1586, a grant was made to a John Seymour to occupy (plant) 12,000 acres (70% of the size of Manhattan Island), as shown within the brown area on the map above. The land, located in Counties Kerry and Connelle (now part of Limerick), Ireland. Queen Elizabeth was a daughter of Henry VIII, so this John

Seymour was likely known to her from her father's marriage to Queen Jane. The English occupations may have been to prevent the Spanish from obtaining a foothold to invade England. The Spanish Armada was defeated in 1588. More importantly, the Seymour surname from England appeared in areas near Limerick. In 1600, Protestants owned only 10% of the land in Ireland, but that was about to change.

Seymours Settle in Ireland

Map following Act of Settlement 1653

English statesman, politician and soldier, Oliver Cromwell invaded Ireland with an Army of about 12,000 soldiers starting in August 1649. Over the next few years, about 30% of the local Irish Catholic inhabitants were purged from their land to the interior area shown in green on the map above. By 1653, over 40% of the land was owned by the English Protestants. Limerick, marked by the red dot, was part of the English land. Soldiers in Cromwell's Army were given land in payment for their service. As Seymours from Cromwell's Army began to settle in Limerick, our family roots were

beginning to be planted. Thousands of local inhabitants were sent to the Caribbean as slaves. A multipart documentary video on Cromwell in Ireland is available on YouTube. Episode 2 Part 6 of 6 provides details on the settlement. From 5 December 1653 to 3 September 1658, Oliver Cromwell was the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland.

First Seymours Arrive in America

By the early 1600s, Seymours had already landed in North America from England. The first recorded Seymour (Seymer) was Richard who came to Northern Virginia (later known as New England) in 1607. He was a preacher who settled with the Popham Colony at the mouth of the Kennebec River (about 15 miles south of Bath, Maine). He returned to England after the Colony failed about one to two years after landing. While in Popham, the colonists built the first English ocean capable vessel in the new world, named The Virginia.

The lineage of the first eight generations of Seymours who remained in America, are shown on the chart below. The first generation of our Seymours did not arrive until 1850, 210 years after Richard Seymour appeared in the records of Hartford, Connecticut. Another Richard Seymour arrived in Connecticut about 1639. A Seymour Bible was later discovered showing Richard's lineage to Royalty. The lineage was later determined to be a forgery.

The first to settle in America was Richard Seymour, who is noted in the Hartford, Conn. records as being of that town in 1640. The line to the present (1910) is traced through eight generations.

(I) Richard Seymour, of Hartford.

(II) John, son of Richard Seymour.

(III) Zechariah, son of John Seymour, all of Hartford.

(IV) Joseph, son of Zechariah Seymour, of Hartford and Colebrook.

(V) Bildad, son of Joseph Seymour, born in Colebrook, Jan. 15, 1776, died in Turin, Lewis county, N.Y. Feb. 28, 1828; married, 1794, Jemima Hurd, died Jan. 24, 1857

.

(VI) Caroline, daughter of Bildad and Jemina (Hurd) Seymour, born in Colebrook, died in Turin, 1873; married Joseph Gaylord.

(VII) A. Seymour, son of Joseph and Caroline (Seymour) Gaylord, born in Turin, died at Lyons Falls, N.Y., April 5, 1880; married Jane F. Morgan.

(VIII) Jennie F., daughter of A. Seymour and Jane F. (Morgan) Gaylord, married William J. Dominick.

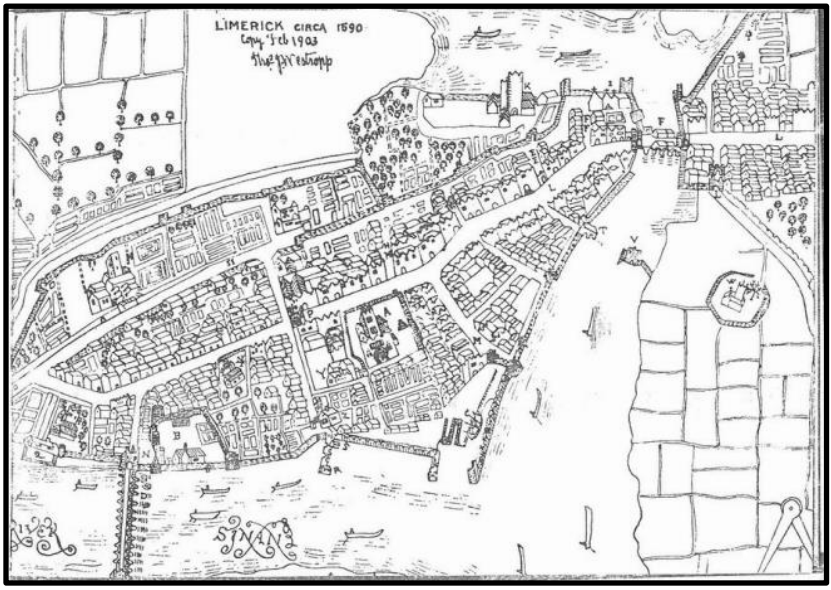
First Eight Generations of Seymours in America

Other Notable Seymours

A John Seymour was the 10th Royal Governor of Maryland from 1704-1709. The first record of a Seymour arriving from Ireland was about 1725 when Felix Seymour settled in Virginia. There were two officers with a Seymour surname who served in the British Army during the Revolutionary War, Ensign Rob Martin Seymour, commissioned 10 Apr 1764 and Lieutenant Wm Edward Seymour, commissioned 20 Jun 1755. Ensign {a rank used by the Army until 1871, Seymour was assigned to the 40th Regiment of the Light Infantry raised in Nova Scotia in 1717. Lieutenant Seymour was assigned to the 47th Regiment of the Light Infantry raised in Scotland in 1741. Thomas Seymour, a Federalist, became the first Mayor of Hartford from 1774-1812. John Seymour, a cabinet maker immigrated to Portland, Maine in 1784 and moved to Boston in 1794. Horatio Seymour served as a U.S. Senator from Vermont from 1821-1833. Another Horatio Seymour was Governor of New

York from 1853-1854 and 1863-1864. Frederick Seymour was a colonial administrator who served as Governor of the colony of British Columbia from 1864-1869. Charles Seymour was the President of Yale University from 1937-1951.

The Seymours in Limerick, Ireland 1680-1850



KEY TO MAP

A. St. Mary's Cathedral.
B. Castle.
C. Quay.
D. Thomond Bridge.
E. St. Munchin's.
F. Baal's Bridge.
G. St. Nicholas.
H. Dominican Priory.
L. High Street.
M. Quay Lane.
N. Thomondgate.
O. Island Gate.
P. Newgate.
Q. Bishop's House.
R. Thomas Arthur's Mill.
S. Queen's Mill.
T. Nicholas Arthur's Mill.
V. Common Mill.
W. St. Michael's.
X. St. Peter's Nunnery.
Y. Old College.

Limerick Map and Index Circa 1590

Limerick Before the Seymours

Originally a port for winter layovers by the Vikings, Limerick grew into a major trading hub. This led to its founding in 922 A.D. It was an obvious place to build a town because it was a defendable island between the Shannon and Abbey River. In the 11th Century, the Irish captured Limerick and gradually the Vikings were absorbed into Irish society. In 1194, the English captured Limerick.

St. Mary's Cathedral

St. Mary's Cathedral was founded in 1168, after serving as the Royal Palace for the Kings of Thomond. The kings ruled an area of classical Ireland consisting of counties Clare, Limerick and parts of Tipperary. St. Mary's is one of the oldest buildings in Limerick and stands at the heart of the medieval city. It is an extraordinarily complex building representing developments from the mid-twelfth century to the later twentieth century. It holds a treasure of Irish religious art. The cathedral is still in use today.

In 1197, Limerick was given a charter granting certain rights to the townspeople. Many English settlers came to Limerick settling on King's Island in Englishtown while the native Irish were moved across the Abbey River to Irishtown. In the 13th century, a stone

wall was erected around Englishtown, later extended around Irishtown. In the 17th century, Limerick underwent four sieges by various forces. For 70 years after the sieges, Limerick was officially a fortress. In 1760 the status of Limerick was changed and most of the medieval walls were pulled down.

Oliver Cromwell 1599-1658

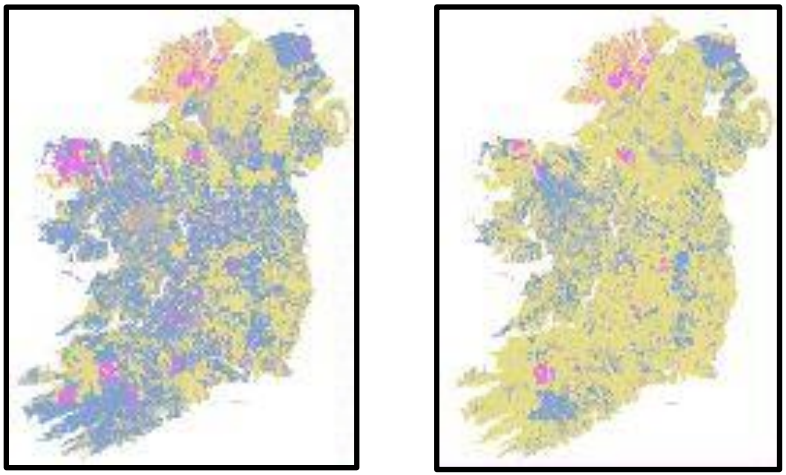
As an English soldier, Oliver Cromwell changed the demographics of Ireland. His war in Ireland in the mid-1600s had an impact on the status of Limerick. Henry Ireton, Cromwell's son in law, led a siege on the city. By 1760, the population had become more anglicized and property ownership was more in the hands of the gentry. Most of the medieval walls had been pulled down.

Down Survey Map of Limerick 1657

The Down Survey

Subsequent to the victories of Oliver Cromwell, a massive transfer in land ownership was undertaken.by the Down Survey of Ireland. It was the first detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world. The down survey map of the city of Limerick is shown above.

The maps below compare land ownership by religion. The Catholics are in blue and the Protestants are in yellow. They show the dramatic reduction of Catholic ownership as it was redistributed to the English between 1641 and 1670. The City of Limerick went from blue to yellow.



Irish land ownership by religion in 1641 (left) and in 1670 (right).
Catholic in blue and Protestant in yellow.

Genealogical Notes on the Seymour Family

During my internet research, I cited a manuscript held by the National Archives on Bishop Street in Dublin entitled "Genealogical Notes on the Seymour Family of Limerick." It was presented in a book style format to the Public Records Office in Dublin by Henry Seymour Guinness on 20 March 1937. It is a total of 146 pages plus cover and discusses the genealogy of the Seymour's from the 16th to the early 20th centuries. Although pricey, I requested a copy of the manuscript which was sent to me by mail. It was packed full of information about the Seymours, but I was not sure they were my ancestors. I still have the mailing in its original wrapping.

According to the notes, Thomas Seymour and Jane Warren came over to Ireland from Twyford, Hampshire on the southern coast of England. Their youngest son John Seymour, born in Limerick during the 1680's, married Lucy Harding at St. Mary's Cathedral which was affiliated with the Anglican Church or Church of Ireland.

1708	Richard Craven.	Francis Sargent; John Seamor.
1709	Rawly Colpoys.	David Davis; James Yeamans.
1710	Pierse Piercy.	John Murray; Thomas Cash.
1711	Ed. Waight.	Paul Terry; Wm. Carr.
1712	Wm. Butler.	Christopher Carr; Robert Palmer.
1713	Ezechias Holland.	Joseph Phibbs; Michael Abjohn.
1714	Wm. Franklin.	Benjamin Barrington; Edmond Vokes.
1715	George Sexton.	Charles Coply; John Carr.
1716	Francis Sergeant.	Joseph Wilson; David Bendon.
1717	George Bridgeman.	John Busshery; Wm. Buxton.
1718	Wm. Medcaff.	Arthur Vincent; Richard Moore.
1719	Richard Davis.	Joseph Hartwell; John Graves.
1720	John Seamor.	Wm. Norris; Isaac Clampett.
1721	George Roch.	Thomas Mason; Wm. Turner.
1722	Joseph Wilson.	Christopher White; Richard Roch.
1723	Tock Roche.	George Wright; Wm. Parker.
1724	Tock Roche.	Thomas Vincent; Joseph Franklin.
1725	John Carr.	Samuel Monsell; Wm. Gardiner.
1726	Lieut.-Gen. Thos. Pierse.	Philip Rawson; Wm. Jessop.
1727	John Vincent.	George Ross; Richard Chester.
1728	Arthur Vincent.	James Seamor, George Sexton.
1729	Walter Parker.	John Wright; Benjamin Barrington.
1730	Wm. Carr.	Richard Seymour, Joseph Roch.

Limerick Mayors and Sheriffs 1708-1730

John and Lucy Seymour had five sons, John, William, James, Richard, and Walter. Three were elected to positions in city government as marked by the red dots on the chart above. John was a saddler and alderman. He was elected Sheriff in 1708, then Mayor in 1720. He received a commission as a Captain Lieutenant in the foot militia in 1728. James was elected Sheriff in 1728 and Richard was elected Sheriff in 1730. John died on 1 December 1731. It is interesting to note, most of the surnames on the chart have roots in England.

John's offspring had notable careers. His son, John, was a Minister, Rector of Pallas in County Limerick, and Chancellor and Precenter of the Diocese of Emly. His sons, John and William, were registered at Trinity College in Dublin.

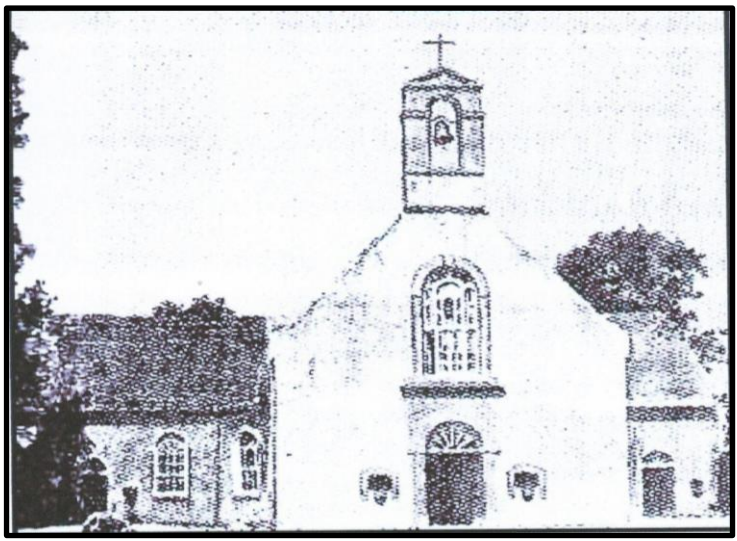
Admiral Michael Seymour 1768-1834

His son, Michael, returned to England, becoming the first in a succession of Admirals in the Royal Navy serving in Europe, the Far East, and South America. Michael is buried in Rio de Janeiro. Michael's younger brother, Richard, also served in the Royal Navy.

Intermarriage?

All of my Seymour ancestors were Roman Catholics. *Is it possible that some of Mayor John Seymours offspring remained in Limerick and intermarried with the largely Catholic population?* This may have led to my great-great-great-grandfather, John Seymour, being born a Catholic about 1790. Nearly all of the Seymours were parishioners at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Athlunkard Street, a few blocks northeast of St. Mary's Cathedral. This church was erected in 1748, and the first Mass was read on 10 December 1749. The earliest Catholic record I found for

St. Mary's Catholic Church was the baptism of Jane Seymour on 25 June 1781. Jane was the daughter of Phelix Seymour and Margt Kinsular. Sponsors were Daniel Flyn and Mary McDaniel. There were also a good number of Seymours that became Quakers.



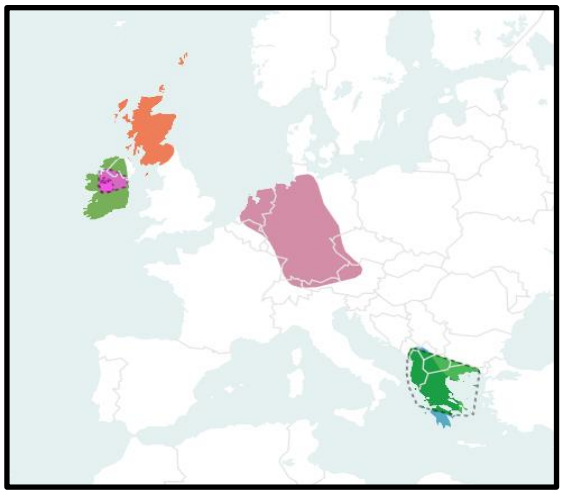
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church 1748-1932

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church 1932-

The old church was demolished and a newer church, designed by Messrs. Ashlin and Coleman, Dublin, and erected by Messrs. Maguire and Shortt, Dublin, was opened on 31 July 1932. The foundations and holy water font of the older structure remain, forming an attractive feature with the garden.

Old St. Mary's Holy Water Font

No English Ethnicity?



Ancestry Ethnicity results 2024

As of 2024, my ethnicity results from Ancestry are shown on the chart above. These results seem to disprove the English origins of my Seymour surname. However, as previously mentioned, there is a connection through Scotland and northwestern France. Although they're designed to provide insights to where ancestors previously lived, there is no trace of my ancestors having lived in England. Ancestry's autosomal DNA tests typically go back six to eight generations, about 150-200 years. By applying family history algorithms, ethnicities can be established as far back as 500-1000 years ago. What makes it interesting, is Oliver Cromwell's Army came to Ireland from England about 375 years ago and the Normans invaded from France about 850 years ago.

According to the chart, it appears all of my Irish ancestors lived in Central Ireland in the vicinity of County Roscommon. This confirms the origin of my Higgins ancestors, but what about the Seymours? The explanation is intermarriage as described previously. My hunch is one of Cromwell's men married into a Limerick family about 1650. When this occurs, I learned Ancestry's algorithm does not pick up ethnicities from other countries. No doubt there are DNA matches still to be discovered to verify the connection with England. My great-great grandmother, John Anderson's, surname can be connected to Scotland. So, it seems my Seymour ancestors were never indigenous to Ireland.

Protestant Landlords

By 1778, although still a small minority, Protestants owned over 95% of the land. The minority became the landlords (many absentees), taking a good portion of the rents and sending them back to England. The Protestant Church of Ireland even imposed a tithe on the Catholics. Ireland's Catholic majority was persecuted by the Protestant minority which led to a nation of paupers not seen before. There were three types of people in Irish Society in the 1800's. The landlord, tenant farmer and landless laborer. In general, the majority

of land was held by the landlord, owning estates of substantial size. These landlords could be residents, or more often absentees.

Spending most of their time in England and rarely returning to examine their estates, landlords left their property in the charge of managers. The estate might lease a piece of land to a middle man or well-to-do large farmer. He in turn would sublet a portion. This process would continue ultimately down to an individual tenant farmer. You could have a situation where five people were in a chain of subletting between landlord and tenant.

The tenant farmer lived at the mercy of the resident landlord. Home was a one-roomed house, a chimney of wickerwork plastered over with mud or just a hole in the roof. The walls might consist of mud too, or sods of grass. Any windows were rarely glazed and would be open to the elements all year round. The pig, if any, was kept in the house. A most valuable possession, it sold for cash at the local market. The main items in the house were a potato pot and water bucket. As well as mother, father and children, there could well be grandparents all living in the same cramped conditions. The family would sleep on rushes or straw laid on the floor.

The laborer was lowest and most at risk in the social order. He owned no land, only having a small area on which to build a cabin and grow a very small amount of potatoes. Laborers might get about five pennies a day for their effort in the fields, and a meal of potatoes in the evening. They relied on work wherever it was available; on farms during harvest time or even to England. In the meantime the women and children would be left waiting for the husband's return and would have to beg in the meantime to survive. Begging increased during the summer months when the potato crop was almost finished. Since the Seymours were city dwellers, their conditions were not as harsh as described above.

A Seymour Genealogist

Father Tom Seymour

Although we would like to believe our Seymour ancestors came from English royal blood, there is another consideration. About 100 years after the Norman invasion of England, the Normans invaded the south coast of Ireland bringing with them the surname St. Maur.

I found Father Tom Seymour in the Irish phone directory available online at: http://www.eircomphonebook.ie/ Father Seymour was the Priest in Residence at the Parish of Nenagh in County North Tipperary. He attended college in Limerick and entered the priesthood in June 1961. Father Tom died in August 2019.

He had extensive work done on his family history and offered to share it with me. He confirmed his branch of the family was originally French, St. Maur. His ancestors came to Ireland with the Norman invasion then came to the Townlands of Lackamore and Portroe in County Tipperary in the 1700's as Land Stewards to the Parker Hutchinson's, the local landlord. None of his branch is connected to Limerick.

They were never called "Seymours," but were known as "Saymores" from the French St. Maur. All of his antecedents were Roman Catholic. This Catholicism came from France as the Roman Empire never expanded into Ireland. In the 1840's and 50's, some of Father Tom's ancestors emigrated to Australia settling in a place called Seymour in Victoria where they took up farming. Seymour is located about 70 miles north of Melbourne.

And to think Hope and I stayed in an Irish cottage a mere six miles north of Nenagh in 1988. Father Tom also indicated there was a branch of the family name centered mainly in Cork about 65 miles south of Limerick and a family of Seymours in Ennis, County Clare about 25 miles northwest of Limerick. All are of the Church of Ireland faith.

Griffith's valuation was the first full-scale estimate of property values of property in Ireland between 1847-1851. The household descriptions are an excellent source of genealogical data. The valuation shows three times the number of Seymours recorded in North Tipperary than in Limerick during 1850-51. However, I was unable to find any baptismal/birth records in the North Tipperary Catholic Parish registers for a Seymour surname during the years that either John or Margaret would have been born.

Is it possible John and Margaret had their roots in North Tipperary coming to Limerick at the time of the famine after being evicted from their land? After all, the Tipperary to Limerick Railway was completed at that time. Only a remote possibility in that I was able to line up the births and marriage of John and Margaret and the birth of sons Francis and Michael in St. Mary's Catholic Parish records in Limerick on a timeline in uniformity with my research. Until the early 1800's, Catholic records, if any, were closely held by the local parishes. It was not until the Catholic Relief Act of 1829 that substantial restrictions were removed. Catholics could now own property, inherit land, and join the Army.

They could enter middle class professions such as legal, universities and civil service.

Limerick during the 1820s

Life in Limerick

The 1800s were in some ways an age of improvement. Limerick was at the forefront of modern architecture. Newtown Pery in central Limerick was built to a grid plan that can still be seen today. This grid plan was later used as a template for the development of Manhattan's famous grid work of interlaced streets. The Old Town Hall was built in 1803. A County Court House was built in 1810. The first hospital in Limerick opened in 1811. St. Saviour's Dominican Church was built in 1816 and the Limerick Gaol (jail) was built in 1821. Limerick gained gas lights in 1824. In 1826 a company was formed to supply Limerick with water. New bridges, Almshouses, Barrington's Hospital, and the potato market were built in Limerick during the first half of the 19th Century. In June of 1830, there was a riot caused by the scarcity of food. It started when five oatmeal carriages crossed the Thomond Bridge. After

crossing the bridge, a crowd poured forth from every lane of the Old Town. The Athlunkard Bridge with five granite arches was completed in 1830, a newer single arched Baal's Bridge was completed in 1831, Sarsfield Bridge (previously known as Wellesley Bridge opened on 5 August 1835, a newer Thomond Bridge was completed in 1840 and Mathew Bridge was completed in 1846.

Colbert Railway Station, Limerick

The railway station opened in Limerick on 9 May 1848 providing a connection with County Tipperary. The opening of the Grand Canal provided further access to Dublin and the east of the country. Limerick experienced substantial emigration to Australia from the 1830s onwards. Large scale emigration to the United States and Canada commenced in the 1840s. The famine was less severe in Limerick causing more emigration than death.

Conditions in Limerick

During the mid-1800s, there were a multitude of storms including the famous Night of the Big Winds in 1839 and the

Limerick Tornado of 1851. John and Margaret likely witnessed a destructive storm in 1846 when high winds, tides, and rain caused loss of life and devastation of property. There was flooding, water washed over bridges, boats ripped from their moorings causing accidents on the river. Windows were broken, trees were torn from their roots, and chimneys were blown down. Barrington's opened in 1829 as a General Hospital for the Poor. The three story cut stone structure was built on George's Quay on the edge of Irishtown. The need for Barrington's came as the result of a medical crisis in 1821. Unsanitary conditions and contaminated water lead to outbreaks of 'epidemic fever' which meant either typhus, typhoid, or cholera. There was a great deal of poverty in Limerick in the 19th century. The Seymours likely observed thousands of starving tenants from nearby farms struggling to enter the Limerick workhouse across the river in Killeely, the present site of St. Camillus's Hospital. Those who died at the workhouse were buried in a nearby mass grave of about 5,000 unidentified people, now known as St. Brigid's Burial Ground.

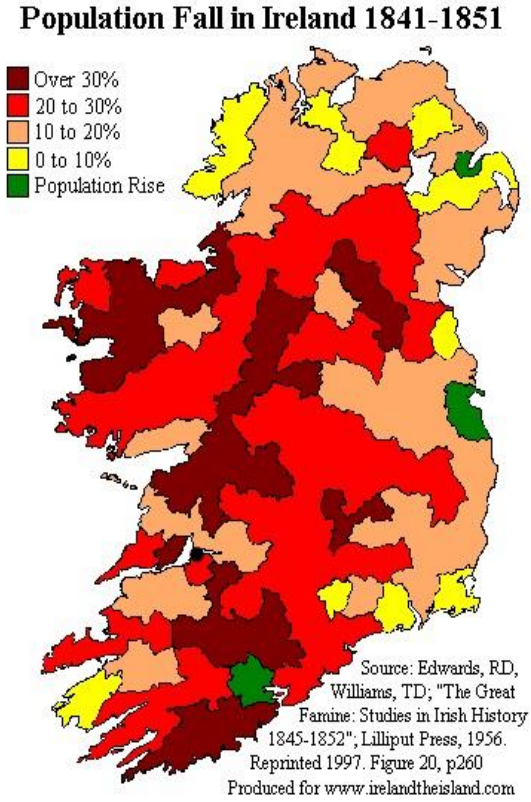
Population of Ireland

The majority of the Seymours in Ireland today live in County North Tipperary a mere 25 miles northeast of Limerick. When John and Margaret Seymour came to the U.S. there were many more Seymours living in Ireland. At the start of the 19th century the population of Ireland was about four million. Life in County Limerick in 1837 is described in *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* by Samuel Lewis. By 1841 the population had grown to over eight million, a number never regained. In 1840 Ireland was one of the most densely populated countries in Europe. The population of County Limerick dropped by 21% and continued to decline until 1900 as a result of continued emigration. The population of Ireland in 2023 is about five million, exceeding the 1840s numbers for the first time. There are now about 200,000 in

County Limerick, of which 60,000 are in the city. Limerick is the third largest city in the Republic of Ireland after Dublin and Cork.

The Famine

In the 1840s, 80% of the Irish population was employed in agriculture and dependent on the potato. The potato seed was sown in April and would be ready for harvest in August. The crop would only be edible until the following May, so there were no potatoes available during the summer months. People would buy oatmeal or similar to survive until the next crop of potatoes. In County Mayo, 90% of the population was dependent on the potato, making the famine more severe.


Population Fall in Ireland 1841-1851
Over 30%
20 to 30%
10 to 20%
0 to 10%
Population Rise
Source: Edwards, RD, Williams, TD; "The Great Famine: Studies in Irish History 1845-1852"; Lilliput Press, 1956. Reprinted 1997. Figure 20, p260
Produced for www.irelandtheisland.com

The above map shows the catastrophic decline in the population of Ireland during the decade from 1841 to 1851. The census taken in 1841 recorded a population of 8,175,124, while the 1851 census counted 6,552,385, a drop of 1,622,739 in ten years. Limerick is marked with a black dot. The population rose around the port cities of Queenstown (Cobh), Dublin and Belfast.

During the famine, also known as the Great Famine or Great Hunger, roughly one million people died. No statistics exist on how many people in the Limerick area died during the famine. Over the six years from 1845 and 1851, up to two million people emigrated, including the Seymours in 1850. The worst year was 1847 or Black '47. This meant Ireland lost a quarter of its population during those terrible years. Almost every vessel had a third of their passengers die at sea or upon their arrival. It reduced the population of County Limerick by 70,000, however, the population of the city actually rose slightly as people fled to the workhouses. The famine ended in 1852 when the food supply was adequate to support the reduced population. By 1855, there were more Irish in New York City than in Dublin.

There is no doubt The Famine contributed to the Seymours departure. A two episode program *The Hunger: The Story of the Irish Famine* was broadcasted by Irish News on RTE ONE in the fall of 2020. It gives a good historical perspective on the roots of The Famine and its impact on Ireland. The program can be seen on the two YouTube links below.

https://youtu.be/PEq1DwrPtj4

https://youtu.be/5fGLlcTaHg8

Emigration to North America

The majority of the emigrants went to North America, the poorest of which went to Canada which was less costly than going directly to the U.S. Most went to Grosse Ile at the mouth of the St.

Lawrence River which was the quarantine station for the Port of Quebec. Over 400,000 immigrants arrived from Irish ports at Grosse Ile between 1829 and 1851. 1847 was a particularly bad year when over 90,000 immigrants arrived, over 8,500 were hospitalized and over 5,000 were buried there. Also in one two month period in 1847, 5000 people perished during the crossing. Many immigrants walked across the open border from Canada into Maine settling in the U.S. Nearly all of these people were Roman Catholic. To this day, Ireland has still not fully recovered its lost population. From 1830 to 1914, almost five million went to the United States alone. In 1890, two of every five Irish-born people were living abroad.

Ireland Reaching Out Project (Ireland XO)

By the 21st century, an estimated 80 million people worldwide claimed some Irish descent; among them are 50 million Americans who claim "Irish" as their primary ethnicity. As a result of the Ireland Reaching Out project at: http://www.irelandxo.com to connect people of Irish descent with their ancestors' place of origin. The project recruited hundreds of volunteer administrators to act as conduits between the parishes in Ireland and the Irish descendants of parish members. Subsequently, many Irish descendants are returning home. I have posted information on the Seymours with the St. Mary's parish administrator in Limerick.

Demographics of Ireland

The townland is the smallest geographical subdivision of land in Ireland. The Townland or Bally system is of Gaelic origin pre-dating the Normans with many retaining their Irish Gaelic names. It is widely acknowledged in Irish genealogy - "If you want to find your ancestor, you need to find their Townland." Identifying the Townland is complicated by the duplication of Townland names and the boundary line differences between the Roman Catholic Parishes and their Dioceses and the Civil Parishes.

All of the baronies, civil parishes, electoral districts, and townlands for the 32 counties are now online at: townlands.ie In July 2023, the site showed 328 baronies, 2,509 civil parishes, 4,563 electoral divisions, and 61,119 townlands in Ireland. In County Limerick there were 14 baronies, 131 civil parishes, 183 electoral divisions, 1,982 townlands and 25 sub-townlands. Limerick City had 11 townlands in its 8 electoral divisions as shown below:

- Limerick No. 1 Urban 3 Townlands
- Limerick No. 2 Urban 6 Townlands
- Limerick No. 3 Urban 0 Townlands
- Limerick No. 4 Urban 1 Townland
- Limerick No. 5 Urban 0 Townlands
- Limerick No. 6 Urban 1 Townland
- Limerick No. 7 Urban 0 Townlands
- Limerick No. 8 Urban 0 Townlands

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church is in Limerick No 1. Urban. JJ. Seymours residence is in Limerick No. 3 Urban

Research at: *www.thecore.com/seanruad/* showed about 65,477 Townlands in the IreAtlas database for Ireland.

Seven Limerick City Townlands are listed for St. John's, St. Lawrence's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's, St. Munchin's and St. Nicholas' and St. Patrick's.

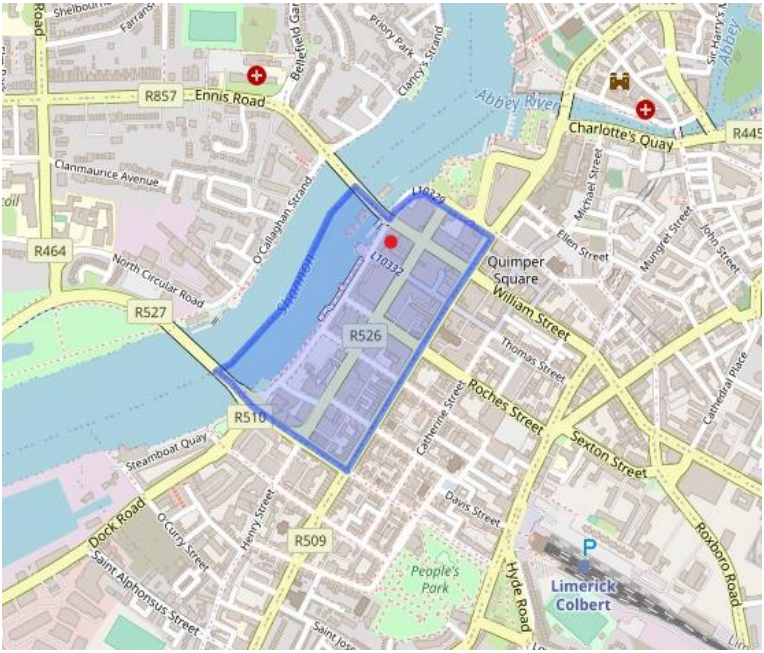
All were in Barony of Limerick City and Poor Law Union of Limerick as shown below:

Townland	AKA	Acres	County	Barony	Parish	PLU	Province
LIMERICK CITY		xx	Limerick	Limerick City	St. John's	Limerick	Munster
LIMERICK CITY		xx	Limerick	Limerick City	St. Lawrence's	Limerick	Munster
LIMERICK CITY		xx	Limerick	Limerick City	St. Mary's	Limerick	Munster
LIMERICK CITY		xx	Limerick	Limerick City	St. Michael's	Limerick	Munster
LIMERICK CITY		xx	Limerick	Limerick City	St. Munchin's	Limerick	Munster
LIMERICK CITY		xx	Limerick	Limerick City	St. Nicholas'	Limerick	Munster
LIMERICK CITY		xx	Limerick	Limerick City	St. Patrick's	Limerick	Munster

City Of Limerick IreAtlas Database

Other research showed: 8 Poor Law Unions, 65 Catholic Parishes, 130 Civil Parishes, and 2,131 Townlands in County Limerick. A good portion of the Civil Parish of St. Munchin's in Limerick falls within the Catholic Parish of St. Mary's. This seems to explain why there were no Seymour tenants found within St. Mary's Catholic Parish, but at least five within a mile of St. Mary's in St. Michael's Parish or Electoral District Shannon A.

In summary, my great- great-grandfather, John Joseph (J.J.) Seymour can be best described as coming from Electoral District Shannon A, Roman Catholic Parish of St. Mary's in the City and County of Limerick. The John Seymour at 18 Victoria Terrace was also within the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Mary's, but it appears he was not a St. Mary's parishioner.



Limerick Electoral District Shannon A

The above map highlights the location of Shannon A in blue. J.J. Seymours residence at 7 Bedford Way is marked by the red dot. The district covers about six city blocks along the waterfront between the Shannon and Sarsfield Bridge and two blocks inland. Usually a townland is only a few hundred areas in size.

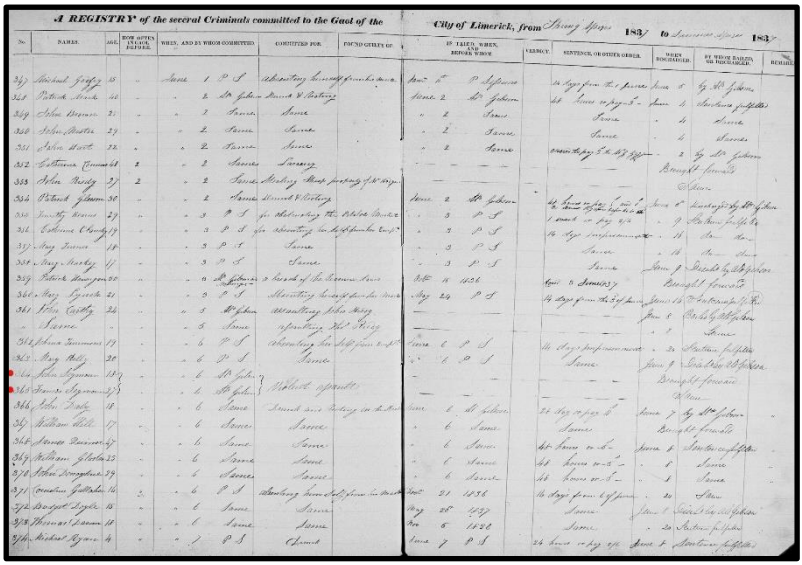
The John Seymour residence at 17 Victoria Terrace is in the Barony of Pubblebrien, Civil Parish of St. Michael's, Electoral Division of Ballinacurra A and Townland of Courtbrack. It consists of 89 acres on the southwest side of the City of Limerick. Earlier research at: *www.thecore.com/seanruad/* showed about 65,477 Townlands in the IreAtlas database for Ireland.

Petty Sessions Court

Petty sessions were the lowest court in the justice system and heard minor civil and criminal offenses such as drunkenness, theft and public disorder. They were presided over by magistrates and Justices of the Peace and had no jury.

Seymours in Petty Sessions Court

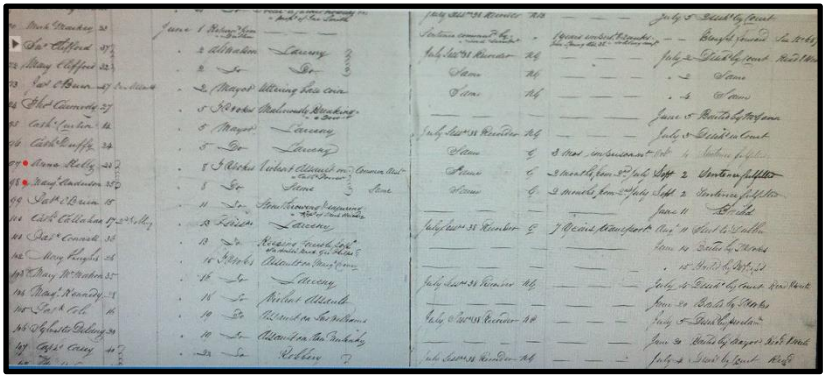
Starting in the early 1800s, names from the petty sessions were recorded in the prison records, providing an insight on our ancestors' misdeeds. The Seymours made it into the records, charged with violent assault.



A REGISTRY of the several Criminals committed to the Gaol of the City of Limerick, from Spring Assizes 1837 to Summer Assizes 183

Petty Sessions Court, Prison Register June 1837

Above is the prison register for my great-great-grandfather, John and great-great-granduncle, Francis Seymour. They are marked by the red dots. John and Francis were accused of violent assault and appeared in Petty Sessions Court in Limerick on 6 June 1837. Although they were not convicted, this event was recorded in the Prison Register. Francis was nine years older than John.



Petty Sessions Court, Prison Register June 1838

John's future wife, Margaret Anderson, and Anne Kelly, appeared in Petty Session Court on 8 June 1838 accused of violent assault on Cathe Power. They were sentenced to two months. It was likely home confinement.

Seymours in the Trade Directories

There were about 875 members of the Limerick City Tradesmen Guild in October 1840. Guild members included stone-cutters, smiths, masons, carpenters, iron founders, cabinet-makers, painters, nailors, bakers, coopers, weavers, tobacconists, hatters, fishermen, brogue makers, wool combers, pipe makers, coach makers, founders, chandlers, slaters and plasterers, millwrights, rope maker, and The Sandmen's Society. The latter appears to be associated with the dredging of sand in the Shannon River and its tributaries.

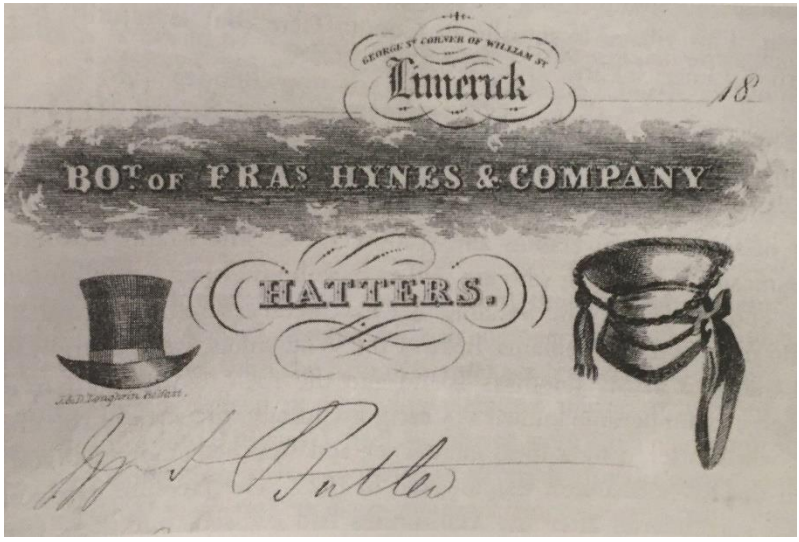
Four Seymours appeared in the Trade Directories: John Seymour, Auctioneer, 6 Upper Cecil Street; Horatio Seymour, Merchant (East and West India), Commercial Buildings, house north strand; Joseph T. Seymour, Painter, Glazier, and Paper Hanger, 38 George Street; Thomas T. Seymour, Cabinet maker and Upholsterer, 49 George Street.

The Hat Makers Guild

Surname	*Forename*
Bloomfield	John
Byrne	Peter
Cusack	Thomas
Dean	Jeremiah
Finn	James
Flanagan	Patrick
Glynn	Patrick
Grace	John
Hannahan	Matthew
Hayes	Laurence
Hennessy	Francis
Lillis	John
McAlister	John
McCarthy	Daniel
McCarthy	P.
McGrath	Michael
O'Farrell	Denis
O'Reilly	Daniel
Roughan	Matthew
Ryan	James
Ryan	John
Ryan	John, jun.
Ryan	Michael
Ryan	Owen
Ryan	William
Seymour	John
St. Laurence	John
St. Laurence	Thomas
St. Laurence	Timothy Francis
St. Laurence	William, jun.
Sweeny	Denis
Sweeny	Patrick

Guilds of Limerick, 1840 - Hatters

Above listing from the Guilds of Limerick, shows the members of the Hatters Guild in 1840. Marked in red is John Seymour, who is likely my great-great grandfather since he worked as a hatter after settling in Orange, New Jersey. John was employed by William St. Laurence at 3 Patrick Street. Thomas Cusack, who is John's maternal cousin, is also on the list. Thomas arrived in America a year before John and was his neighbor in the 1850 U.S. Federal Census. He likely assisted with John's employment and living arrangements.



Limerick Hatters

Francis Hynes and Company were hatters at the George Street corner of William Street in 1846.

On the above record, Mrs. Butler purchased two ladies hats, a case and a servant's hat for 2.65 pounds.

There was a George Seymour listed as a nailor and a John Seymour was listed as a hatter. Also on the list of 31 hatters was a Thomas Cusack who emigrated to New York the year before John Cusack was employed by William St. Laurence, a hat manufacturer at 3 Patrick Street. I reviewed the Limerick section of Slater's

Commercial Directory of Ireland published in 1846. Similar to the Pigot Directory, it too had three sections that were of interest: The Tait Clothing Factory, built on Lord Edward Street In 1853, was the world's largest ready-made clothing supplier. Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy, Roman Catholic Establishments, and Trades Directory. There were no Seymours listed as Nobility, Gentry, or Clergy. A good amount of information is now available online at the Limerick City Library. The lace making industry in Limerick was established in 1829 spreading to several factory locations including church buildings. At its peak in 1851, it provided employment to an estimated 1,800 workers, primarily female. The industry subsided following the introduction of machine-made lace available elsewhere. In the early years, the Roman Catholic Establishments of St. John's, St. Michael's, St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, and St. Munchin's were referred to as Chapels. St. Mary's Catholic Church or chapel was erected between 1746 and 1749. It was cruciform in design, without external decoration, and contained a handsome altar donated by a merchant, John Kelly, in 1760.

Griffith's Valuation

As mentioned previously, Griffith's Valuation of Irish property took place during the period from 1847-1864. Valuation records are online at: askaboutireland.ie I found my great-great grandfather by entering family name Seymour; first name J.J. and County Limerick as shown below. More information can be retrieved by clicking on the details, original page and map view columns. The map can be displayed on a sliding scale between modern and historical images which can be navigated and enlarged.

Griffith's Valuation
The Primary Valuation was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland. It was overseen by Richard Griffith and published between 1847 and 1864. It is one of the most important surviving 19th century genealogical sources.
Griffith's Names Griffith's Places Name Books Thoms Search Tips Upload About GV Maps Read More
In the GV search results table below ...
Click the details icon to see all the details of that valuation record and any user-contributed additional materials.
Click the page icon to see a scan of the original document page.
Click the map icon to see a Griffith's Valuation map
Results 1 to 1 of 1
Occupier Surname
Occupier Forename
County
Parish
Details
Original Page
Map Views
Upload your content for this record
SEYMOUR
J.J.
LIMERICK
ST MICHAEL
Results 1 to 1 of 1

Search Page

Griffith's Valuation Record Information	
Tenant	
Family Name 1	SEYMOUR
Forename 1	J.J.
Landlord	
Family Name 2	TRUSTEES INDEPENDENT CHAPEL
Forename 2	
Location	
County	LIMERICK
Barony	LIMERICK, NORTH LIBERTIES OF
Union	LIMERICK
Parish	ST MICHAEL
Townland	PRIOR'S LAND
Place Name	BEDFORD ROW
Place Type	OTHER
Publication Details	
Position on Page	13
Printing Date	1850
Act	9&10
Sheet Number	
Map Reference	13 7

Details Page

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names of Townlands and Occupiers.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Description of Tenement.	Content of Land.	Net Annual Value of Land.	Net Annual Value of Buildings.	Total Net Annual Value.
	PRIOR'S-LAND—*con*			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
— 14	James Cardiff,	Arthur Langford,	House,	—	—	5 10 0	5 10 0
	BEDFORD-ROW.						
— 1	William Quinlan,	Mary Hogan,	House,	—	—	18 10 0	18 10 0
— 2	James Hynes,	Henry Watson, Esq.	House and yard,	—	—	38 0 0	38 0 0
— 3	Trustees,	Henry Watson, Esq.	Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Chapel,	—	—	55 0 0	55 0 0
— —	Michael Quinn,	Trus. Methodist Chapel	Stable (in rere),	—	—	6 5 0	6 5 0
— —	Vacant,	Trus. Methodist Chapel	Vault under chapel,	—	—	4 15 0	4 15 0
— —	John Goggin,	Trus. Methodist Chapel	Vault under chapel,	—	—	4 15 0	4 15 0
— —	John O'Connor,	Trus. Methodist Chapel	Vault under chapel,	—	—	4 15 0	4 15 0
— 4	John M'Namara,	Robert Ledger, Esq.	House, offices, and yard	—	—	26 0 0	26 0 0
— 5	Vacant,	Robert Ledger, Esq.	House, offices, and yard	—	—	26 0 0	26 0 0
— 6	Trustees,	James Black, Esq.	Independent Chapel,	—	—	44 0 0	44 0 0
— —	Peter Lande,	Trustees Independent Chapel,	Vaults under chapel and stable,	—	—	12 10 0	12 10 0
— 7	J. J. Seymour,	Trustees Independent Chapel,	House, offices, and yard	—	—	27 0 0	27 0 0
— 8	Joseph Enright,	James Black, Esq.	House and yard,	—	—	18 0 0	18 0 0
— 9	Martin Henehan,	James Black, Esq.	House,	—	—	18 0 0	18 0 0
— 10	Michael M'Namara,	Lawrence Kelly,	House, offices, and yard	—	—	44 0 0	44 0 0
— 11	Abraham Jones,	William M'Sweeny,	Store,	—	—	17 0 0	17 0 0
— 12	John N. Russell, Esq.	William M'Sweeny,	Corn store,	—	—	75 0 0	75 0 0
— 13	James Harvey & Co.	Reuben Harvey, Esq.	Timber-yard & stores,	—	—	137 0 0	137 0 0
— 14	Francis Speight, Esq.	Reuben Harvey, Esq.	Timber-yard & stores,	—	—	123 0 0	123 0 0
— 15	Robert Rogers, Esq.	Hon. John Knox,	House, store and yard,	—	—	96 0 0	96 0 0
— 16	Richard Partridge,	George Grubb,	House,	—	—	5 10 0	5 10 0
— 17	John O'Connor,	Maria Hanrahan,	House,	—	—	11 0 0	11 0 0
	LANE. (*Off Bedford-row, rere of Nos. 2 & 3.*)						
— 1	Robert M'Mahon,	Mary Hogan,	Stable,	—	—	3 10 0	3 10 0

Original Page

The valuation of property in the City of Limerick was done in 1850, the same year my Seymour ancestors left Ireland. County Limerick was completed by 1852. With the names of landlords and tenants (occupiers) included, this has become a source for genealogical data. I found 744 Seymours recorded in all of Ireland, 561 of which were residing in the western Counties of Limerick, Tipperary, North Riding, Cork, Galway and Mayo. I found a total of 47 Seymours recorded in County Limerick during the time of the valuation. The 47 included both landlords and tenants. Griffith's was focused on the value of the land and not the total number of people, so there may very well have been other Seymours not recorded who paid rent to the immediate tenants. Focusing only on the Seymours who were immediate tenants, I narrowed down the number to nine that were living in the city near St. Mary's Church. Of the nine, there was only one John Seymour. John lived in the Townland of Courtbrack in the Civil Parish of St. Michael's. John lived at 17 Victoria Terrace, a multi-family dwelling on the southside of town about a half mile from the east bank of the River Shannon and about two miles southwest of St. Mary's Church.

Based on newspaper articles from the Limerick Reporter newspaper, John was an auctioneer. The immediate lessor (landlord) was William J. Newsome, Esq. In those days, Esquire was accorded men of higher social rank. Mr. Newsome resided at 20 Victoria Terrace. His landlord was Daniel R. Kane, Esq. John's tenement was described as a house, office, and garden. The office was likely an outbuilding such as a stable or shed. The land was measured as 21 perches (about 5,700 square feet), the net annual value of the land was 10 shillings, the net annual value of the building was 15 pounds for a total net annual value of 15 pounds and ten shillings. There 12 pence to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. The dwelling had 20 residences, 7 of which were vacant.

Roots Ireland

In recent years, Ireland established an organization known as the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF), now known as Roots Ireland. The organization operates Heritage Centers in most of the 32 counties in Ireland. Each center acquires historical records from the local area, including many Catholic Church records previously unrecorded outside of the local parishes. Records are primarily of births/baptisms and marriages. The data is accessible at: rootsireland.ie

The website has a considerable number of Roman Catholic records, however, it is a fee site. For example, you can obtain the number of records for John Doe's in a specified county during a specified time frame. However, for each record request, after the first ten, there is a charge of about 3.5 Euros or $5.00. It has since become a subscription site. Avoiding the cost of research on the Irish Family History Foundation website, required a trip the National Library of Ireland (NLI) on Kildare Street in Dublin. They also have records of Griffith's Valuation, Tithe Applotment Books, the 1901 and 1911 Irish Census, and gravestone inscriptions.

From IFHF records, I learned my great-great-grandfather had an older brother and sister. Jude was baptised on 15 Feb 1809 and Judy was baptised on 5 April 1811 at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. Jude's sponsors were George Glenville and Bridget Lillis. Judy's sponsors were John Cusack and Bridget Lillis. I found my great-great-grandfather's marriage record to Margaret Anderson at St. Mary's on 20 June 1846 and the birth and baptism records for my great-grandfather's two older brothers, Francis born 15 July 1847 and Michael born 14 September 1849. It is noteworthy that Queen Victoria visited Ireland in August 1849. On John's marriage record, his forename appeared as Joseph which may have been his middle name. Joseph was the middle name of my great-grandfather as well as my father. At the time of their marriage, St. Mary's was listed as a chapel in the Roman Catholic Establishment under Bishop Right Rev. Dr. Ryan located at Park House. The chapel was located within St. Francis' Abbey. The Parish Priest was the Rev. John Brahan. The Curates were: Rev. Michael Egan and Rev. Richard Mackey. They resided at Sir Harry's Mall. Rev. Brahan was also listed as the Priest for the Convent on Barrack Street. My great-great-grandfather John Seymour appears to have been the one born and baptised at St. Mary's on 31 January 1815 and John Seymour born and baptised at St. John's on 24 June 1795 could have been his father. The original St. John's was built in 1753. It was replaced by

St. John's Cathedral in 1861. The cathedral is the tallest structure in Limerick with the tallest spire in Ireland. It is one of two cathedrals in Limerick, the other being St. Mary's, which is Anglican. With matching names of parents on their baptismal certificates, my great-great-grandfather's two siblings, Jude and Judy, were both baptised at St. Patrick's Catholic church. St. Patrick's is the first still-in-use Catholic church in Limerick.

I researched the birth of Margaret Anderson and found only one in County Limerick. It showed a church birth/baptism dated 26 November 1817 in the Roman Catholic Parish of Oola about 20 miles southeast of the city of Limerick near the border of County Tipperary. Her father and mother were shown as Rd (Richard) Blackwell and Catherine Anderson. There were no births/baptisms for a Margaret Anderson in County Tipperary during this time. It was not until I established direct contact with St. Mary's, that I learned Margaret was baptised there on 27 April 1818.

Thatched Cottage in Puckane by Lough Derg

Trip to Ireland May 1988

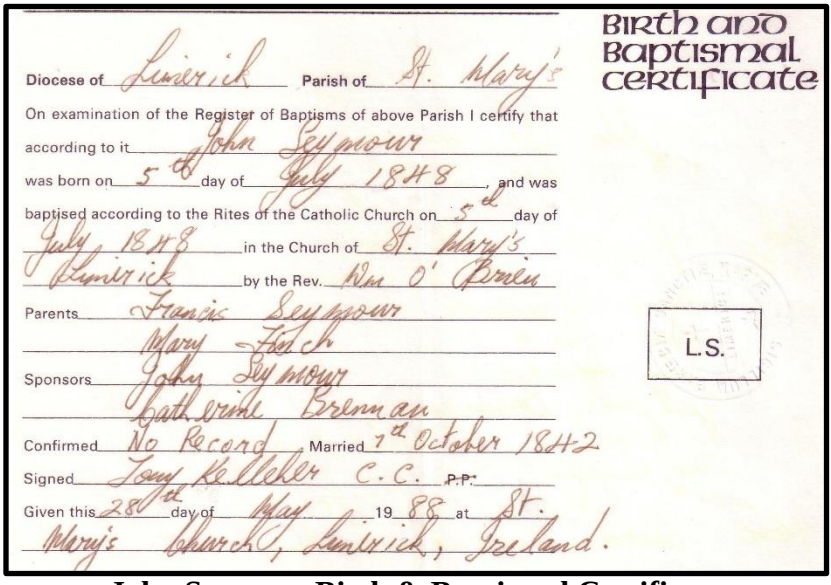
As this was our first trip to Ireland, my wife, Hope, and I wanted to travel around the western part of the country during the week we were there. This was where my Seymour and Higgins ancestors and Hope's Mooney ancestors lived. We decided to rent a cottage in a centralized location in the Village of Puckane in County Tipperary. Like spokes on a wheel, we drove off in a different direction each day. We knew our ancestors were from this part of Ireland, so when we saw a Seymour, Higgins or Mooney on a storefront, we stopped and took a picture.

Stopping by a Seymour Storefront in Borrisokane, County Tipperary

During our trip, we visited the Heritage Center in Limerick. At the time, most of the Heritage Centers were being established, many in unused historical buildings. With the name John Seymour born in Limerick circa 1840 as the starting point, the center searched throughout County Limerick. They found the Seymour surname

was largely confined to the City of Limerick. At the time there were five Catholic parishes in the city. St. John's, St. Michael's, St. Patrick's, St. Munchin's and St. Mary's. St. Munchin is considered the patron saint of Limerick. Today, there are 16 parishes in the city and nearly 50 others throughout the county. The Heritage Center sent us directly to St. Mary's where most of the Seymours were parishioners.

I found my great-grandfather?



BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

Diocese of Limerick Parish of St. Mary's

On examination of the Register of Baptisms of above Parish I certify that according to it John Seymour was born on 5th day of July 1848, and was baptised according to the Rites of the Catholic Church on 5th day of July 1848 in the Church of St. Mary's Limerick by the Rev. Wm O' Brien

Parents Francis Seymour Mary Fitch

Sponsors John Seymour Catherine Brennan

Confirmed No Record Married 7th October 1842

Signed Tony Kelleher C.C. P.P.

Given this 28th day of May 19 88 at St. Mary's Church, Limerick, Ireland.

L.S.

John Seymour Birth & Baptismal Certificate

I was convinced that John Seymour born 5 July 1848 was my great grandfather, so we proceeded about a quarter mile north across the Bridge Street bridge to St. Mary's on Athlunkard Street. Being a Saturday afternoon, we did not expect to find anyone at St. Mary's, but had the good fortune of arriving during a confirmation ceremony. Following the ceremony, we proceeded to the rectory where we talked with Father Tony Kelleher who pulled out the book showing the original record of John Seymours baptism. He then proceeded to transcribe a handwritten copy of John's birth and

baptism certificate. In addition to John's parents, who were married on 7 October 1842, the certificate indicated that the baptism was performed by Father William O'Brien and that the sponsors were John Seymour and Catherine Brennan. *Could it be that John Seymour, the sponsor, was my great-great-grandfather?* Perhaps a further review of that book is in order to determine some of the Seymour family relationships. Before we left, Father Kelleher showed us a holy water font from the old church in the churchyard behind the new church. The font was preserved when the original St. Mary's was torn down and replaced by the current St. Mary's in 1932. The font and a plaque were all that remained. The original St. Mary's was built in 1748 and had its first mass read on 10 December 1849. The land was originally rented from Alderman Ingrim and the church replaced a rented Malt House which had been used by the local parishioners for worship. It wasn't until I embarked on a more comprehensive approach to family history that I realized that John, born to Francis Seymour and Mary Finch in 1848, was not my great grandfather. After further research, it appeared that Francis was likely my great-great-grandfather's brother and that this John was my great-great-granduncle. Francis remained in Limerick until his death on Nicholas Street on 13 July 1873. My great-grandfather John Seymour was actually born in Orange, New Jersey in 1852. My great-great-grandfather John Seymour was born in Ireland.

The center found the names of three John Seymours as follows: John Seymour born 24 June 1795 to Karol Seymour and Eliza Supple in St. John's parish; John Seymour born 31 January 1815 to John Seymour and Mary Cusack in St. Mary's parish; and John Seymour born 7 July 1848 to Francis Seymour and Mary Finch in St. Mary's parish.

Donna Moughty

Trip to Ireland October 2013

In 2010, I joined The Villages Genealogical Society and began intensive research of my Seymour ancestors as a member of the Irish Special Interest.Group. In early 2013, Donna Moughy, a professional genealogist specializing in Irish research, was the guest speaker at a monthly meeting. At the end of her talk, she invited members to sign up for her annual one- week research trip to Ireland in October. I was ready to go back to Ireland! Donna provided pre-trip research and research assistance at the repositories in Dublin. After that, I boarded the train to Limerick and was on my own.

National Library of Ireland

In Dublin, I spent time at the National Library of Ireland (NLI). We were still in the microfilm era. As of July 2015, all of the Catholic parish registers were digitized and put online at the NLI website at http://.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx There is a list of Catholic Parish Registers for all of Ireland. Under St. Mary's, Limerick microfilm P.2413 covers baptisms and marriages between 1816 and 1862 and P.2412 covers baptisms between 1795 and 1816. The microfilms did reveal the names of some of the priests and sponsors at each baptism as well as John and Margaret's marriage. They were: John Seymour baptised on 24 June 1795 and sponsored by Gulielmo Ward and Chris Supple; John Seymour 31 January 1815 baptised by Rev Walsh and sponsored by Henry and Mary Clancy; Margaret Anderson was baptised on 27 April 1818 by Rev Downes and sponsored by John Fanon and Nancy Shaughnessy; John Seymour and Margaret Anderson marriage 20 June 1846 performed by Rev Brahan and sponsored by Joseph Moran and Mary Meehan; Francis Seymour 15 July 1847 baptised by Rev Brahan and sponsored by Francis Seymour and Mary Lee; and Michael Seymour 14 September 1849 baptised by Rev Kenyon and sponsored by Thomas Quin and Eliza Moran. I did find the baptisms for Mary Lee and Thomas Quin. Mary was baptised on 4 January

1820 at St. Michael's and Thomas was baptised on 9 March 1921 at St. John's.

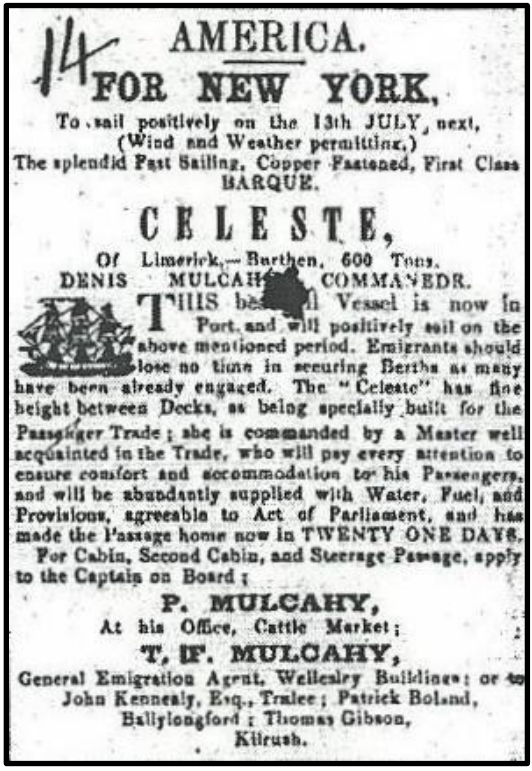
I've also researched Pigot and Co.'s Provincial Directory for 1824, the Tithe Applotment Books from 1824 to 1835 for County Limerick, Ireland Prison Register for 1836 and 1837, the 1837 Limerick City Council Electors List, the Tradesman Guild for 1840, Slater's Commercial Directory for 1846, and Griffith's Primary Valuation from 1850 to 1852 for Limerick City and County. Pigot had three sections that were of interest: Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy, Roman Catholic Establishments, and a Merchant and Tradesman Directory. Listed in the Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy section was a Thomas Seymour, Gentry, on Frederick Street, Mrs. Alexander Anderson on Taylor Street, and Mrs. Coln Anderson on Taylor Street. The Roman Catholic Establishments called Chapels were co-located with Church of Ireland churches of the same name. For example: St. Mary's Chapel (now St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church) was co-located with St. Mary's Cathedral. Protestants such as Presbyterians, Methodists, and Quakers were listed under Protestant Dissenting Chapels. Two Seymours appeared in the Merchant and Tradesman Directory: Joseph Seymour, Druggist (and oil and colourman), 50 William Street and Horatio Seymour, Auctioneer (and commission sale rooms), 50 William Street. The Tithe Applotment Books recorded the results of a unique land survey taken to determine the amount of tax payable by the occupiers of the land to the Church of Ireland. These tithes were a tax on agricultural land that had previously been payable in kind. Payment was typically in the form of potatoes. I found no record of a Seymour so it seems unlikely that my great-great-grandfather or his father lived on agricultural land in Limerick. However, I found 25 Seymours (five of which were John's) recorded in County Tipperary in 1824. The electors list showed applicants who served notice on the Clerk of the Peace for the County of the City of Limerick, of their intention to register as voters. There were two

Seymours on this list: John Seymour, Auctioneer, George Street, 10 Pound Householder and Thomas Seymour, Cabinetmaker, George Street, 10 Pound Householder. Owning or renting land worth at least 10 Pounds was needed to register to vote. If John and Thomas were Catholic they would not have owned the land. Listed on the Ireland Prison Register was HN (Likely Horatio Nelson) Seymour - Stealing, John Seymour, Age 18 - Violent Assault, and Francis Seymour, Age 27 - Violent Assault, and Catherine Seymour - For Obstructing The Police. It is unlikely that an 18 year old John Seymour was placed in the County Gaol (Jail), but rather sent home in the custody of his parents. Listed under Prisons were the County Gaol (Jail) on Upper William Street and the City Gaol (Jail) on Merchants Quay. Also the Limerick Union Workhouse was listed on the North Strand.

Limerick City Library

I later discovered the Local Studies Department of the Limerick City Library has a condensed version of the Genealogical Notes on the Seymour Family online at: Seymour (limerickcity.ie) The condensed version is only 11 pages providing a lineage of Seymours from Edward Seymour in 1659 to Thomas Seymour in 1915. Included are Births, Marriages, and Deaths; Obituaries; and Trade

Directories. Most names listed are likely from the upper class and not Catholic.



14 AMERICA.

FOR NEW YORK,

To sail positively on the 13th JULY, next,
(Wind and Weather permitting.)
The splendid Fast Sailing, Copper Fastened, First Class BARQUE,

CELESTE,

Of Limerick,—Burthen, 600 Tons.
DENIS MULCAHY, COMMANDER.

THIS beautiful Vessel is now in Port, and will positively sail on the above mentioned period. Emigrants should lose no time in securing Berths as many have been already engaged. The "Celeste" has fine height between Decks, as being specially built for the Passenger Trade; she is commanded by a Master well acquainted in the Trade, who will pay every attention to ensure comfort and accommodation to his Passengers, and will be abundantly supplied with Water, Fuel, and Provisions, agreeable to Act of Parliament, and has made the Passage home now in TWENTY ONE DAYS.

For Cabin, Second Cabin, and Steerage Passage, apply to the Captain on Board;

P. MULCAHY,
At his Office, Cattle Market;

T. F. MULCAHY,
General Emigration Agent, Wellesley Buildings; or to John Kennealy, Esq., Tralee; Patrick Boland, Ballylongford; Thomas Gibson, Kilrush.

Departure Announcement Limerick Chronicle 6 July 1850

Two newspapers, the Limerick Chronicle and Limerick Reporter were available on microfilm at the Limerick City Library, but some of the original copies of the Chronicle were there. Librarian Mike Maguire, brought out the originals and placed them on a table for me to review. I was astonished as I opened the same newspapers my great-great-grandparents had read. There were several announcements concerning the Barque Celeste. What a photo opportunity! This was the vessel John, Margaret, Francis and Michael would board for their voyage to New York. The Limerick and Clare Examiner is on microfilm at the National Library. These newspapers were published during the years John was growing up.

A good amount of information is now available online at the Limerick City Library at: limerickcity.ie

Identifying My Seymour Lineage

Other names and addresses of interest are: Thomas Seymour, Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer on Bedford Row died 6 October 1850; Mrs. Seymour at 8 Victoria Terrace in the 1877 Directory; and Michael Seymour, Academy/School at 8 Victoria Terrace in the 1879 Directory. Seymour offspring are also listed among the Freemen of Limerick 1746-1836 - John son of William, deceased 20 Feb 1747; James son of James, deceased 20 February 1747; Francis, Earl of Hertford, deceased 7 Oct 1765, and Michael, Captain, Royal Navy, deceased 13 February 1809. John Ferrar's Directory of Limerick in 1769 was the first directory to deal specifically with a provincial town. There was one Seymour listed - Margaret, a Confectioner living on Main Street in Englishtown. J.J. Seymour was living at 7 Bedford Row in the Townland of Prior's-land and even closer to St. Mary's. This tenement was described as a house, office, and yard. There was no assessment of land and the net annual value of the building was 27 pounds. The immediate lessor was the Trustees Independent Chapel which was associated with the Congregational Church in Ireland. With the decreased number of Congregationalists, spaces were offered to let.

I am confident my great-great-grandparents John and Margaret (Anderson) Seymour lived here between 1846 and 1850. The Valuation Office House Book assessment of 12 July 1848 shows that J.J. Seymour had been added to this previously unoccupied location. The House Books also revealed that J.J. was the only Seymour not having Esquire attached to his name. Great- uncles Francis and Michael Seymour were born here in 1847 and 1849. At 3 Bedford Row was a Primitive Wesleyan Chapel. This chapel is listed in the Index of Irish Methodist Churches, Chapels, and Preaching Houses published by the Methodist Historical Society of

Ireland (MHSI). Its structure was built in 1820 and was also known as the Central Hall and Independent Chapel.

"am I not a man and brother?"
"am I not a woman and a sister?"
Anti-Slavery Activism in Limerick
Limerick hosted a number of Black abolitionists in the mid-nineteenth century.
All delivered anti-slavery and anti-racist lectures at the Independent Chapel (no longer extant) on Bedford Row.
Moses Roper (1838)
Charles Lenox Remond (1841)
Frederick Douglass (1845)
Samuel Ringgold Ward (1853)

Frederick Douglass Plaque

In November 1845. Frederick Douglass, a fugitive slave and abolitionist from America, spoke on Bedford Row about the horrors and cruelty of negro slavery. *Was my great-great-grandfather there?* A plaque commemorating the visits of Douglass, Moses Roper, Charles Lenox Remond and Samuel Ringgold Ward was installed outside the Independent Chapel in 2021. The Chapel was sold in 1920 for £2,000. Following the sale, it was converted into the Grand Central Cinema. The façade for the Cinema was built about 15 feet in front of the Chapel. When the Cinema was demolished, the gothic façade of the Chapel was exposed. When the street was pedestrianized, the chapel façade was enclosed in a glass atrium which can be seen today.

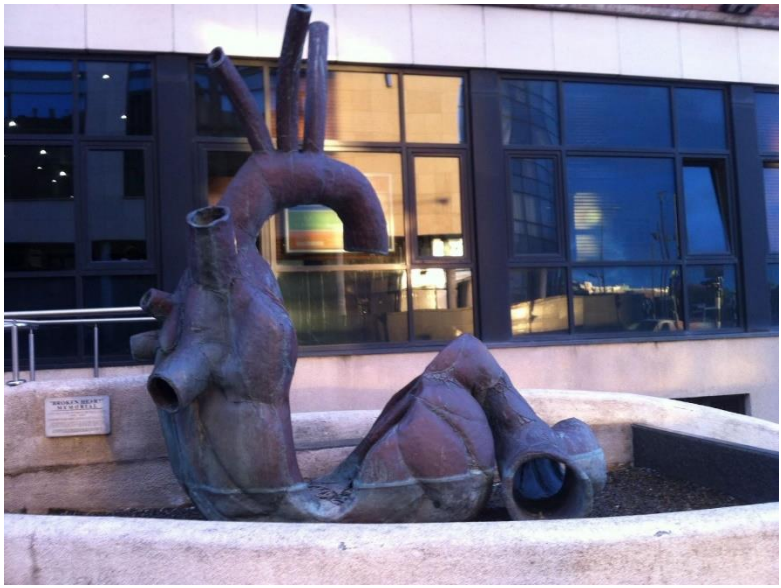
Pedestrianized Bedford Row. The Seymour family lived at #7 on the right.

My great-great-grandparents John and Margaret (Anderson) Seymour lived at 7 Bedford Row, Limerick, Ireland at the location shown above. Great-uncles Francis and Michael Seymour were born here in 1847 and 1849. I embarked on a process similar to that described above, to identify the family of John's wife Margaret Anderson. I found 3434 Anderson's recorded in all of Ireland, only 530 of which were residing in the western Counties of Limerick, Tipperary, North Riding, Cork, Waterford, and Mayo. I found a total of 120 Anderson's recorded in the County of Limerick during the time of the valuation. The 120 included both landlords and tenants (occupiers). Focusing only on the tenants, I narrowed down the number one John Anderson who was living in the city near St. Mary's Church. John lived in the Townland of Prior's-land in the Civil Parish of St. Michael's. His residence was at 5 Mallow Street-Upper, about halfway between John Seymours and St. Mary's

Church. The immediate lessor (landlord) was Thomas Myles, Esq. who resided at 4 Mallow Street-Upper and it was recorded that John Anderson was one of his four lodgers. John's tenement was described as a house and yard. The net annual value of the building was assessed at five pounds and ten shillings for a total net annual value of 5 pounds and ten shillings. Other than the year, the specific date of the valuation was not recorded. However, there are Field Books held by the Valuation Office and House Books held by the National Archives in Dublin that may hold this information. Tens of thousands of tenants were evicted from their lands during the famine due to non-payment of rent. There were few choices other than seeking food and shelter in a Poor Law Union Workhouse or the odd chance of finding work with Public Works with very little pay. The Workhouse building program started to provide assistance to the poor under the Irish Poor Law Act of 1838. Workhouses were built to the same standard specification to comprise either 400 or 800 "inmates." They were built on the outskirts of town with inmates being separated from the rest of society by stone walls and an iron gate. August 1845 saw the first reports of blighted potato crops across Ireland. At that point, conditions inside the workhouses continually got worse. Inmates were categorized into male/female, able-bodied, old/infirm, and infants/children. All were separated, rarely seeing each other. Living conditions were cold, damp, and cramped. Disease was commonplace as no proper toilet facilities were in place. Able-bodied inmates were required to work a minimum 11 hour day. Breakfast consisted of the cheapest porridge/grain, lunch consisted of a piece of black bread and, dinner consisted of potatoes and Indian meal.. Buttermilk was given with everything. Punishments for breach of rules were very harsh. By 1846, workhouses were vastly oversubscribed with thousands of people being refused admittance. Some of those denied admission lived outside. At the height of the famine in 1848, the workhouse population reached a quarter million throughout Ireland. My great-great-grandfather may have met this fate and chose to emigrate.

Living in the adjacent Townland of Prior's-land was Denis Mulcahy, who prepared and signed the passenger manifest for my great-great-grandfather's crossing. In addition to the Seymours living as tenants, there were three Seymour landlords in County Limerick in 1850. The most notable was Edward Wight Seymour who was the landlord for 32 properties. There was also an Admiral Seymour who was the landlord of three properties. There were no instances of a Seymour landlord renting to a Seymour tenant.

Emigration from Limerick



Broken Heart Famine Memorial

Limerick port was located near the confluence of the Abbey and Shannon rivers at King's Island. The quaysides were busy during the famine years. Above is a memorial near Steamboat Quay. One week in April 1850 saw four emigrant ships, Marie Brennan, Congress, Triumph, and Hannah, glide down the Shannon towards the Americas. Hannah was 59 feet long and could barely hold 60 passengers and a crew of eight. Yet, as the smallest emigrant ship,

she made eight trans-Atlantic voyages. Barque Celeste held more than twice that number.

At the same time other ships were being loaded with produce such as oats and wheat for shipment to English ports. The produce was grown in the nearby fertile land of southwestern Ireland known as the Golden Vale. By 1853, there were only a few Seymours remaining in County Limerick. Today, no Seymours can be found in the Eircom fixed line services phone book for the City or County of Limerick and only 12 in all of Ireland. Eircom is the principal provider of fixed-line telecommunications services in Ireland with approximately 2.6 million fixed line telephone access channels in service. However, I suspect that there are many Seymours using the mobile service.

Date Baptised	Name	Father	Mother	Godfather	Godmother	Priest
6/25/1781	Jane	Phelix Seymour	Margt Kinsular	Daniel Flyn	Mary McDaniel	B.M. Carmody
1/31/1815	John	John Seymour	Mary Cusack	Henry Clancy	Mary Clancy	Rev Walsh
4/27/1818	Margaret	John Anderson	Margaret Moran	John Fanon	Mary Shaughnessy	Rev Downes
6/1/1826	James	Joseph Seymour	Margt Quigley	Not Listed	Catherine O'Neill	Rev Mr Enragh
7/12/1835	Jane*	James Seymour	Johanna Ryan	Not Listed	Mary Lyons	Rev Mr Demaght
7/15/1847	Francis	John Seymour	Margt Anderson	Francis Seymour	Mary Lee	Rev W. Brahan
7/5/1848	John	Francis Seymour	Mary Finch	John Seymour	Catherine Brennan	Rev W. Brahan
9/14/1849	Michael	John Seymour	Margt Anderson	Thomas Quin	Eliza Moran	Rev M. Kenyon
	* Illegitimate					
Date Married	**Husband**	**Wife**	**Sponsor**	**Sponsor**	**Priest**	
2/27/1838	Joseph Moran	Fanny Seymour	Margt Dobbins	John Murphy	Rev Mr Nolan	
6/20/1846	John Seymour	Margt Anderson	Joseph Moran	Mary Meehan	Rev W. Brahan	
9/3/1847	Francis Seymour	Mary Finch	John Seymour	Thomas Finch	Church of Ireland	
10/7/1862	Francis Seymour	Mary Finch	Patrick Bourke	Margaret Kinsella		
9/28/1864	William Seymour	Catherine McGrath	Patrick Bourke	Margaret Hannon		
Date of Death	**Name**		**Age**		**Informant**	
7/13/1873	Francis Seymour		61		Ellen Warde	

Matrix of Seymour Births, Marriages and Deaths at St. Mary's

After my trip to Limerick in 2013, I was able to build a matrix of all the Seymour births, marriages and deaths on record at St. Mary's as shown above. I am indebted to church secretary, Ursula Kelly, who helped me put this together. Francis and William were the only two Seymours remaining on St. Mary's records after my great-great-grandparents emigrated to New York.

From the June 1837 prison register, Francis Seymour was probably my great-great grandfather's brother. Francis married Mary Finch at St. Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral on 3 September 1847. They had a son, John, born on 5 July 1848. They married again at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on 7 October 1862. Francis died in Limerick on 13 July 1873. I found no further church or civil registration records of Mary or John. There may have been a connection between William and my great-granduncle, Michael Seymour. Michael was only a few years younger and when his son was born in 1885 he named him William. When Francis died, it likely marked the passing of my last direct Seymour relative left in Limerick. *I wonder if my great-great-grandfather, John, ever corresponded with him after arriving in America.*

Sailing Across the Atlantic

My great-great-grandfather John Joseph, his wife, Margaret Elizabeth, and cousins, Michael F. and Francis (Frank) Seymour, made the Atlantic crossing from Limerick, Ireland to the southern tip of Manhattan, New York in the summer of 1850.

Replica of Barque Celeste

Their vessel, named Barque Celeste, arrived at the Port of Limerick from New York on 29 June 1850 with Indian corn as its cargo. Its arrival and departure were announced in the local newspapers; The Limerick & Clare Examiner and The Limerick Chronicle as discovered during my visit to the Limerick Library. The announcements said the vessel was 600 tons and Denis Mulcahy was Commander. It also said the vessel was specially built for the passenger trade having fine height between decks. Passengers would be supplied abundantly with water, food and provisions agreeable to the Act of Parliament. It claimed that the vessel had made the passage home in 21 days. The Captain was taking applications for Cabin, 2nd Cabin and Steerage Class Passengers.

Inside an Immigrant Ship

In reality, they boarded a three-masted 284 ton 130 passenger sailing vessel built at the North Burns shipyard in Belfast in 1846. Their fare was about five pounds. They received a 4 X 6 cabin berth (slightly larger than a twin mattress), a pound of food and three quarts of water each for the entire trip. The vessel was likely overloaded since many of the passengers were without cabin berths. There were no toilets. Each family was provided a bucket to be emptied every night.

Sailing Down the River Shannon

Barque Celeste embarked on its voyage on 13 July sailing down the River Shannon toward the Atlantic. It left from one of several quays (Arthur's, Charlotte's, George's, Harvey's, Honan's, Howley's or Steamboat) along Limerick's waterfront. Harvey's, located between Bedford Row and Lower Cecil Street, was closest to their home. *I wonder how the Seymours felt sailing into the unknown in cramped quarters with two small children.*

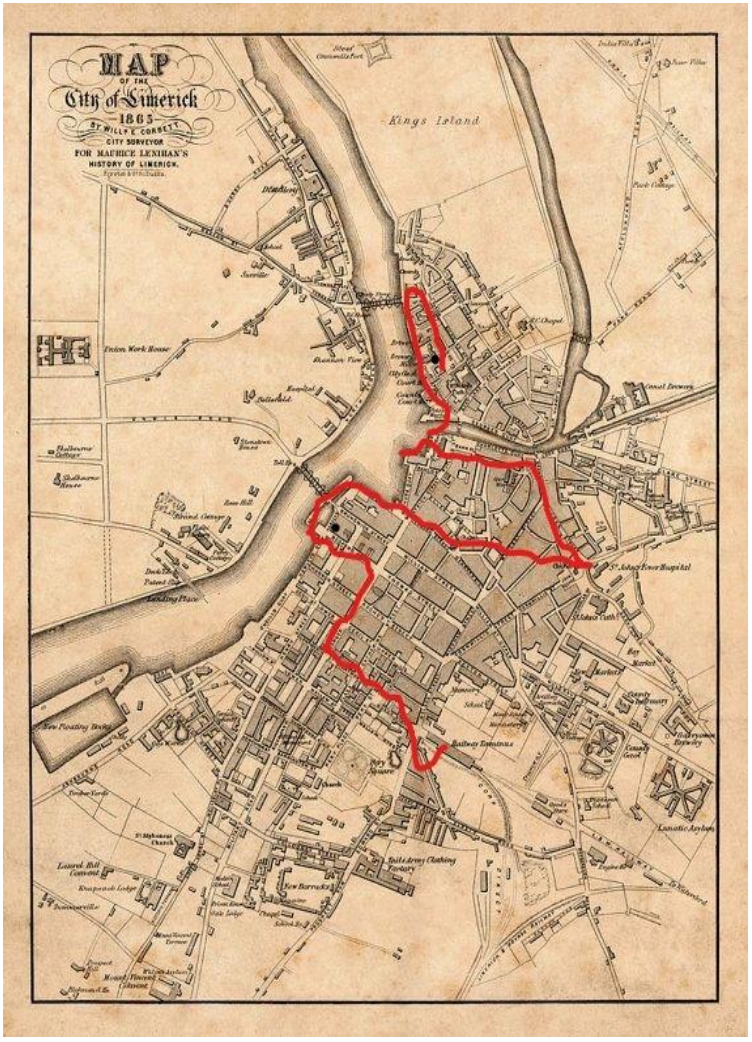
Reflections on My Visit to Limerick

When I arrived at Limerick's Colbert train station from Dublin on Sunday 20 October 2013, I was well equipped to follow in my ancestors' footsteps. I walked several blocks downhill on Mallow Street to Steamboat Quay on the River Shannon and registered for two nights at the Clarion Hotel. After checking-in, I walked along the riverfront to Bedford Way where my great-great grandparents lived. It was quite different than it would have been in 1850. The street was now pedestrianized with modern storefronts. The only

remaining edifice was the facade of the Independent Chapel, now hidden by a glass enclosure. On Monday morning, I attended Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church, kneeling where my great-great-grandparents were baptized and married and my great-granduncles were baptized. Behind the church, I stood speechless in the garden by a holy water font which was attached to the entrance of the original St. Mary's. It was like reaching back nearly 180 years, visualizing my ancestors making the sign of the cross before attending Mass. At the Broken Heart Memorial, I envisioned throngs of emigrants gathered near the waterfront on the River Shannon. I imagined Barque Celeste at anchor near the docks, preparing for its voyage to America. During my visit, I did not rent a car, but simply walked from place to place capturing the essence of my ancestor's lives, feeling their presence along the way.

On the map below, I have drawn the route of a recent youtube walking tour video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urUQX83ysJQ

The tour starts at the Colbert Train Station and concludes in front of the new St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. The black dot in the middle marks where the Seymours lived and the black dot above them, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.



1865 Map of the City of Limerick

Seymours in Orange, New Jersey 1850-1900

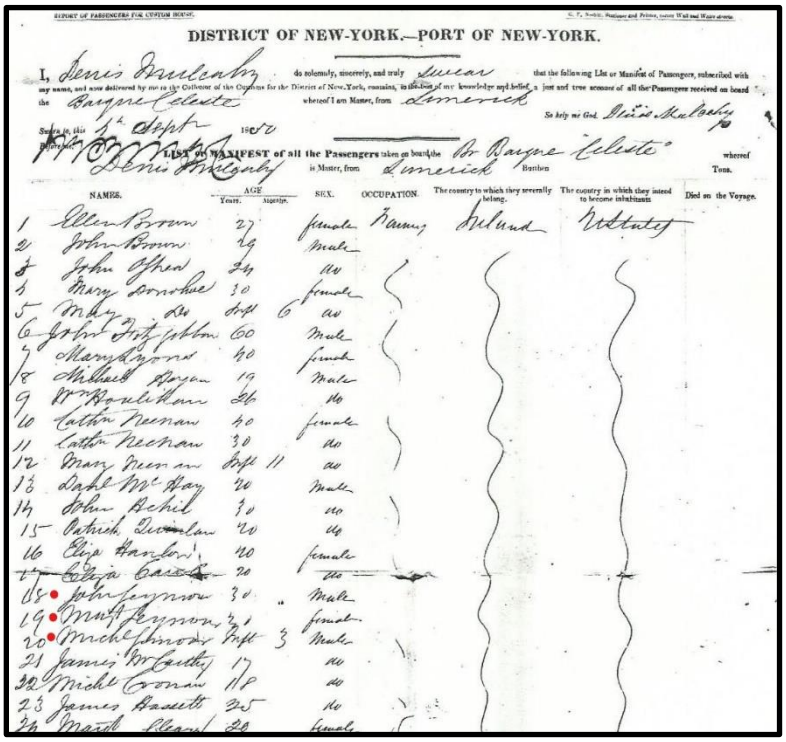
Crossing to America

After a 53-day transit from Limerick, Barque Celeste arrived off the southern tip of Manhattan on 4 September 1850. Millard Fillmore was President of the United States.

Castle Garden in 1850

Castle Garden officially opened as New York's Emigrant Landing Depot on 3 August 1855. Before then, there was no centralized emigrant processing center so Castle Garden served as a center for social, cultural and political activity. Interestingly, Swedish singer, Jenny Lind, "The Swedish Nightingale," was being presented by P. T. Barnum at Castle Garden's opera house a week after the Seymours arrived. The Seymours likely saw the opera house from the barque. This was the fourth of six transits that Celeste made to New York from Ireland between 1848 and 1851. Three transits were made from Limerick, two from Dublin and one

from Galway. Many of the vessels used as emigrant ships were not designed to carry passengers. Prior to the famine they would carry cargo such as wood on the journey into Ireland and were empty on the return journey. With the onset of the famine, wooden bunks would be hastily erected before setting sail. Ironically the convict ships, governed by a series of regulations, proved to have far better conditions for their 'passengers' than emigrant ships. Ships sailed from many Irish ports including Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Belfast, Drogheda, Sligo and Galway.



DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK.—PORT OF NEW-YORK.

I, Denis Mulcahy do solemnly, sincerely, and truly swear that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New-York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the Barque Celeste whereof I am Master, from Limerick

So help me God. Denis Mulcahy

Sworn to this 1st day of Sept 1850 before me

LIST or MANIFEST of all the Passengers taken on board the Br Barque "Celeste" whereof Denis Mulcahy is Master, from Limerick Burthen Tons.

	NAMES.	AGE Years.	Months.	SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants	Died on the Voyage.
1	Ellen Brown	27		female	Nanny	Ireland	Wisconsin	
2	John Brown	29		Male				
3	John Ofred	24		do				
4	Mary Donohue	30		female				
5	Mary Do	4	6	do				
6	John Fitzgibbon	60		Male				
7	Mary Mayne	40		female				
8	Michael Bryan	19		Male				
9	M Donnelhan	26		do				
10	Cathn Keenan	40		female				
11	Cathn Keenan	30		do				
12	Mary Keenan	8	11	do				
13	Daniel Mc Kay	20		Male				
14	John Reid	30		do				
15	Patrick Donnelan	20		do				
16	Eliza Hanlon	20		female				
17	Eliza Carey	20		do				
18	John Seymour	30		Male				
19	Mary Seymour	30		female				
20	Michael Seymour	3		Male				
21	James M Carthy	17		do				
22	Michl Cronan	18		do				
23	James Bassett	25		do				
24	Mary Ellen	20		female				

Passenger Arrival List

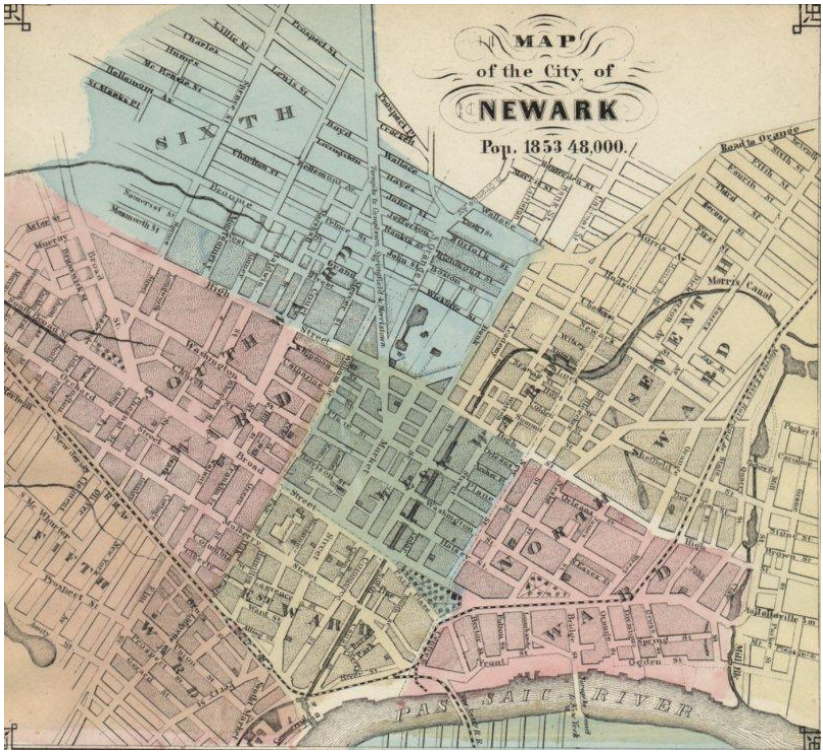
The first page of Barque Celeste's passenger arrival list is shown above. It was prepared by Commander Denis Mulcahy in Limerick for delivery to the Collector of Customs for the District of New York at the The Port of New York. There were 130 passengers on the manifest and all survived the crossing. John, Margaret and their son Michael Seymour are marked in red. Their older son,

Francis, was with them, but his name does not appear on the list. In the Irish language, they were known as Seán, Mairead, Micheal and Proinséas. The occupation of each passenger was shown as farming.

Artist's Depiction of Castle Garden in 1880

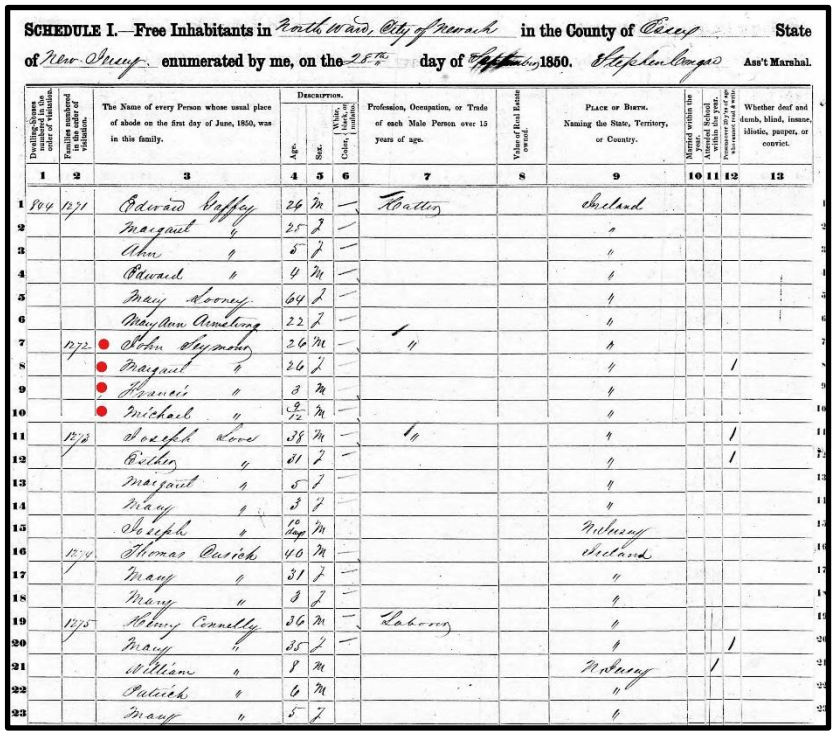
Above is a depiction of lower Manhattan 30 years after Seymours arrival. Castle Garden is in the lower center. Steamships were now in the harbor and the Brooklyn Bridge was under construction across the East River. When completed, people no longer had to take the ferry from Brooklyn to Manhattan which was incredibly time consuming.

The above illustrates the expansion of lower Manhattan between 1856 and 2013. *I wonder if anyone could have seen this coming.*



1853 Map of Newark, New Jersey with North Ward at bottom

1850 Federal Census

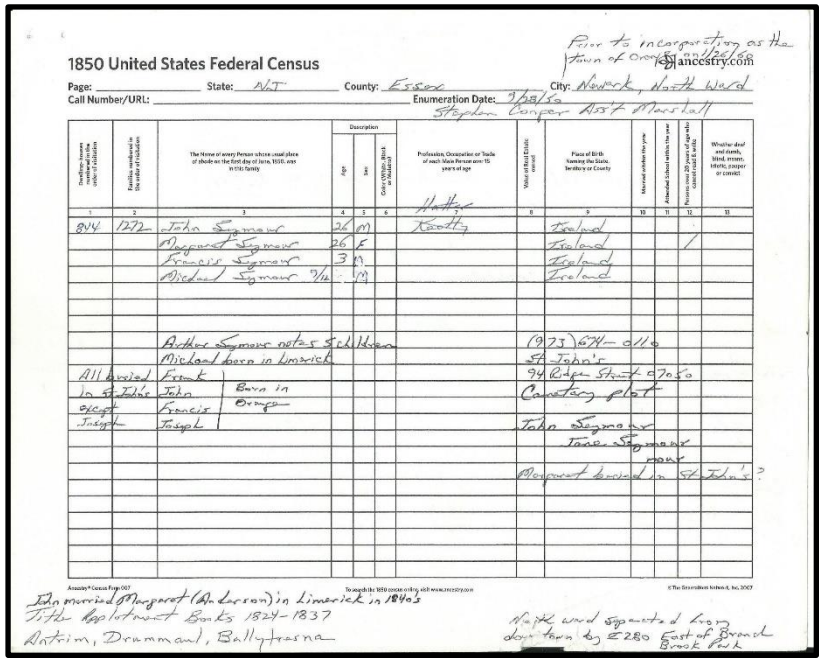


SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in North Ward, City of Newark in the County of Essex State of New Jersey enumerated by me, on the 28th day of September, 1850. Stephen Morgan Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation	Families numbered in the order of visitation	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Description. Age.	Sex.	White, Black, or Mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 y'rs of age who cannot read and write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
804	1271	Edward Raffay	26	M	—	Roller		Ireland				
		Margaret "	25	F	—			"				
		Ann "	5	F	—			"				
		Edward "	4	M	—			"				
		Mary Rooney	64	F	—			"				
		Mary Ann Armstrong	22	F	—			"				
	1272	John Seymour	26	M	—	"		"				
		Margaret "	26	F	—			"			1	
		Francis "	3	M	—			"				
		Michael "	9/12	M	—			"				
	1273	Joseph Lowe	38	M	—	"		"			1	
		Elder "	81	F	—			"			1	
		Margaret "	5	F	—			"				
		Mary "	3	F	—			"				
		Joseph "	10 Mo	M				Newark				
	1274	Thomas Ruddick	40	M	—			Ireland				
		Mary "	31	F	—			"				
		Mary "	3	F	—			"				
	1275	Robert Connelly	36	M	—	Laborer		"				
		Mary "	35	F	—			"			1	
		William "	8	M				Newark		1		
		Patrick "	6	M				"				
		Mary "	5	F				"				

1850 Federal Census for John Seymour

On 28 September, the Seymours were listed in the 1850 Federal Census, marked in red above. It was serendipitous that the census was taken only 24 days after the Seymours arrival. They were residing in the North Ward of Newark at the bottom of the above map. The North Ward of Newark was later incorporated into the town of Orange. In 1853, the population of Newark was 48,000 and there were four main roads. Main Street was the road to Orange. Below the census is transcribed onto a Family Group Sheet.



1850 United States Federal Census

Page: _____ State: N.J County: Essex City: Newark, North Ward

Call Number/URL: _____ Enumeration Date: 9/28/50

Prior to incorporation as the town of Orange in 1806

Stephen Cooper Asst Marshall

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation	Families numbered in the order of visitation	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family	Description: Age	Sex	Color (White, Black or Mulatto)	Profession, Occupation or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age	Value of Real Estate owned	Place of Birth, naming the State, Territory or County	Married within the year	Attended School within the year	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read and write	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper or convict
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
844	1272	John Seymour	26	M		Hatter Knotty		Ireland				
		Margaret Seymour	26	F				Ireland				
		Francis Seymour	3	M				Ireland				
		Michael Seymour 9/12		M				Ireland				
		Arthur Seymour notes Sch Master					(973) 674-0116					
		Michael born in Limerick					St John's					
All buried		Frank					94 Edgar Street 07050					
in St John		John	Born in				Cemetary plot					
Except		Francis	Orange									
Joseph		Joseph					John Seymour					
							Jane Seymour					
							nour					
							Margaret buried in St John's?					

Ancestry® Census Form 007 — To search the 1850 census online, visit www.ancestry.com — ©The Generations Network, Inc. 2007

John married Margaret (Ann Lorson) in Limerick in 1840s

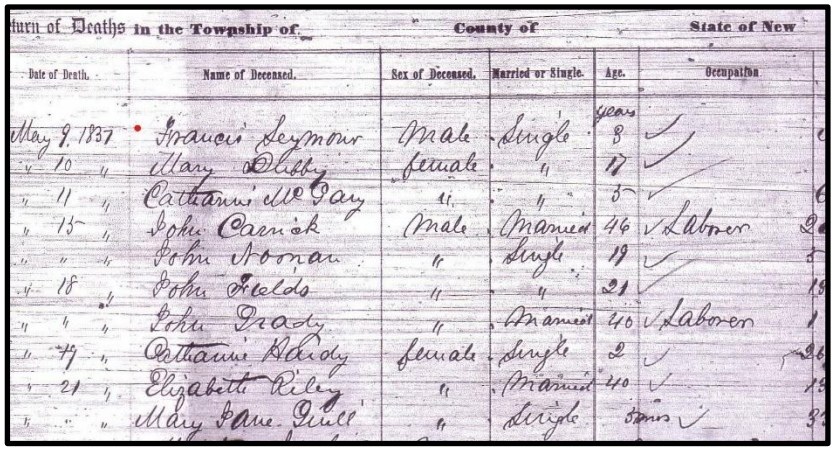
Fifth Baptismal Books 1824–1837

Antrim, Drummaul, Ballyfrasna

North ward separated from town by ~2280 East of Broad Brook Park

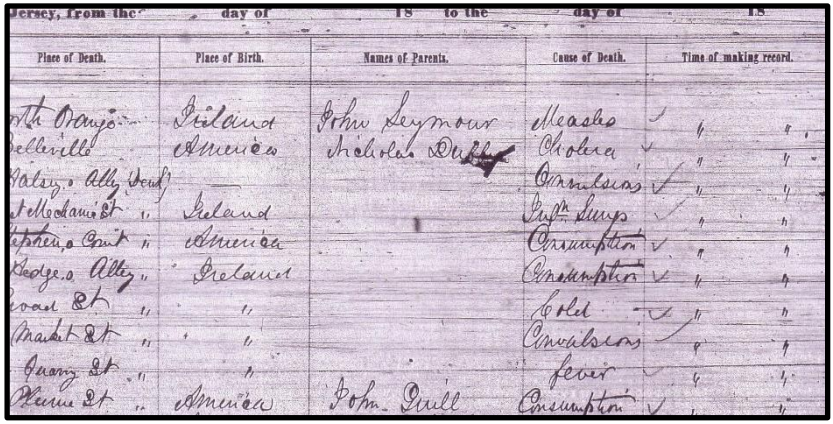
1850 Family Group Sheet for John Seymour

Great--granduncle Francis Seymours Death



Return of Deaths in the Township of _____ County of _____ State of New

Date of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Sex of Deceased.	Married or Single.	Age.	Occupation
				years	
May 9. 1837	Francis Seymour	Male	Single	8	
" 10 "	Mary Dibby	female	"	17	
" 11 "	Catharine McGay	"	"	3	
" 15 "	John Carrick	Male	Married	46	Laborer
" " "	John Noonan	"	Single	19	
" 18 "	John Fields	"	"	21	
" " "	John Grady	"	Married	40	Laborer
" 19 "	Catharine Reidy	female	Single	2	
" 21 "	Elizabeth Riley	"	Married	40	
" " "	Mary Jane Quill	"	Single	3 mos	



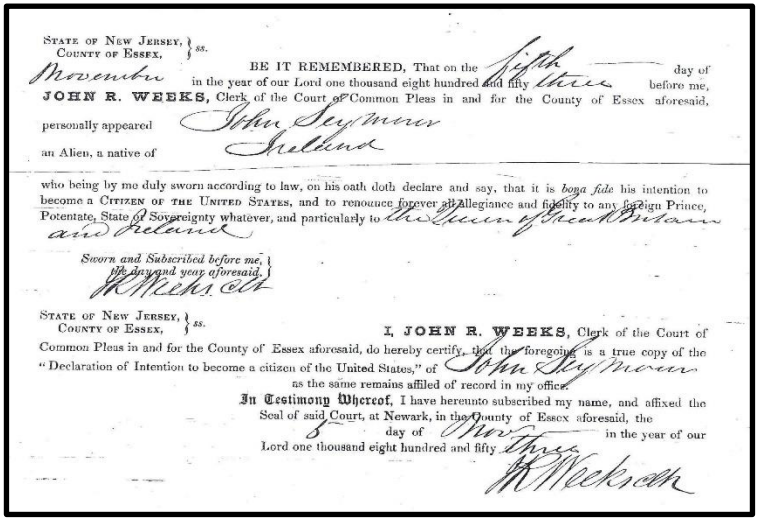
Jersey, from the day of 18 to the day of 18

Place of Death.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents.	Cause of Death.	Time of making record.
4th Ward	Ireland	John Seymour	Measles	
Belleville	America	Nicholas Dubb	Cholera	
Valley, o Alley, bet			Convulsions	
S Mechanic St	Ireland		Dysentery	
Stephen, o Court	America		Consumption	
Hedge, o Alley	Ireland		Consumption	
Broad St			Cold	
Market St			Convulsions	
Quarry St			fever	
Plane St	America	John Quill	Consumption	

Francis Seymours Death Record

Francis (Frank) died from the measles on 9 May 1851 at the age of three as shown on the first line of the two pages above. The year was incorrectly transcribed as 1837.

Becoming An American Citizen



STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF ESSEX, } ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty three before me, JOHN R. WEEKS, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Essex aforesaid, personally appeared John Seymour an Alien, a native of Ireland who being by me duly sworn according to law, on his oath doth declare and say, that it is *bona fide* his intention to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and to renounce forever all Allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland

Sworn and Subscribed before me, the day and year aforesaid.

J R Weeks Clk

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF ESSEX, } ss.

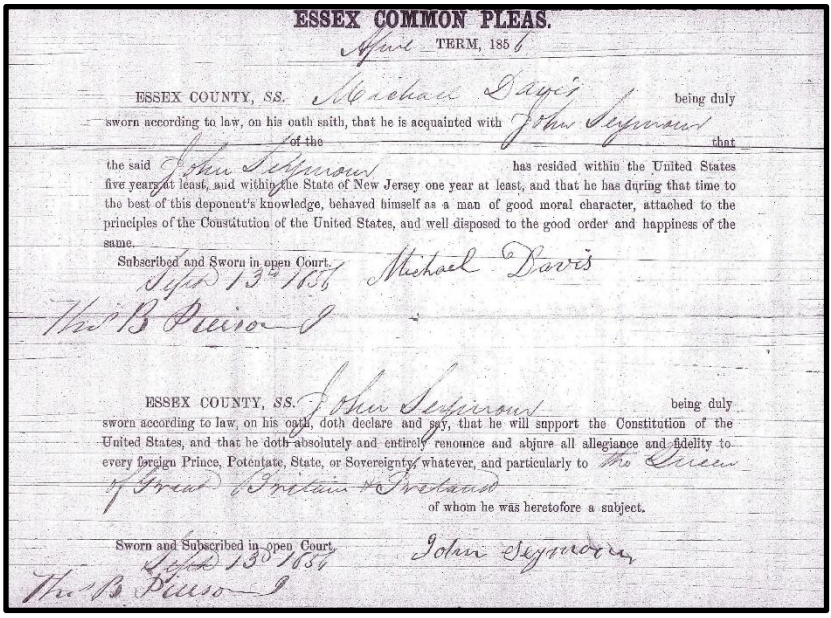
I, JOHN R. WEEKS, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Essex aforesaid, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of the "Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States," of John Seymour as the same remains affiled of record in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the Seal of said Court, at Newark, in the County of Essex aforesaid, the 5 day of Nov in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty three

J R Weeks Clk

John Seymours Declaration of Intent - 1853

On 5 November 1853, my great-great-grandfather, John Seymour, filed his Declaration of Intent to be Naturalized before John R. Weeks, Clerk of the Essex County Court of Common Pleas



ESSEX COMMON PLEAS.

April TERM, 1856

ESSEX COUNTY, SS. Michael Davis being duly sworn according to law, on his oath saith, that he is acquainted with John Seymour of the that the said John Seymour has resided within the United States five years at least, and within the State of New Jersey one year at least, and that he has during that time to the best of this deponent's knowledge, behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and Sworn in open Court Sept 13th 1856 Michael Davis

Thos B Pierson Jr

ESSEX COUNTY, SS. John Seymour being duly sworn according to law, on his oath, doth declare and say, that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty, whatever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain & Ireland of whom he was heretofore a subject.

Sworn and Subscribed in open Court Sept 13th 1856 John Seymour

Thos B Pierson Jr

John Seymours Naturalization - 1856

On 13 September 1856, John was naturalized before Thomas B. Pierson, Clerk of the Essex County Court of Common Pleas.

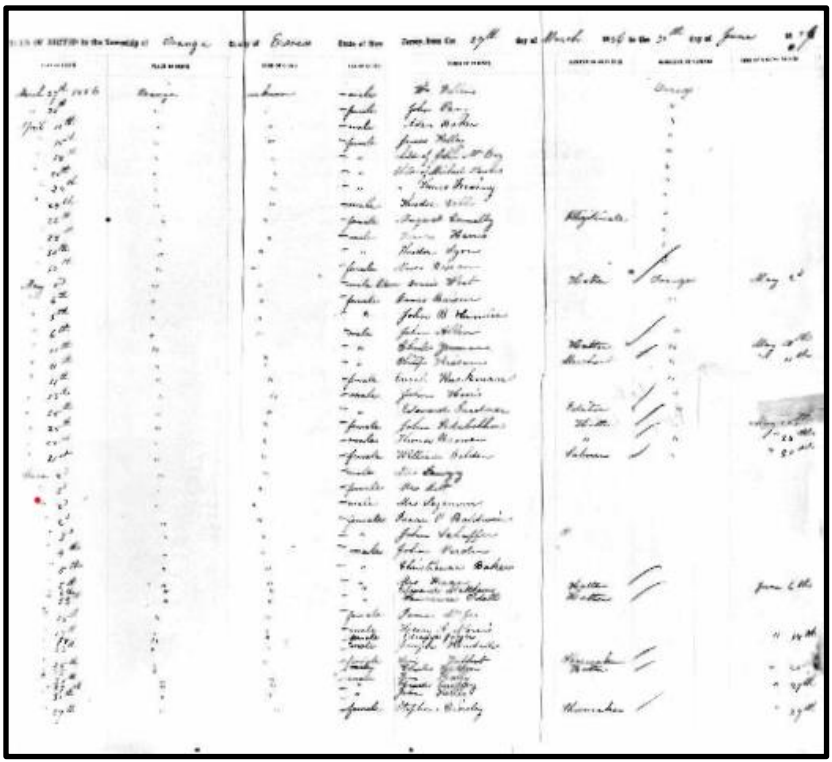
1850 Map of Orange, New Jersey

Moving to Orange

By 1852, the Seymours had moved to Orange to become a part of its rapidly growing hat making industry. John was a member of the Hatter's Guild in Limerick and it is likely many of his colleagues seized this opportunity. The center of Orange is in the middle of the above map. It was a major stop on the Morris and Essex Railroad, running right to left, between Newark and Morristown. My great-grandfather, John Joseph, was born on 1 July 1852 He was John and Margaret's first child born in America.

Adding Family

John's first daughter, my great-grand aunt, Mary Jane Seymour, was born on 3 February 1855.

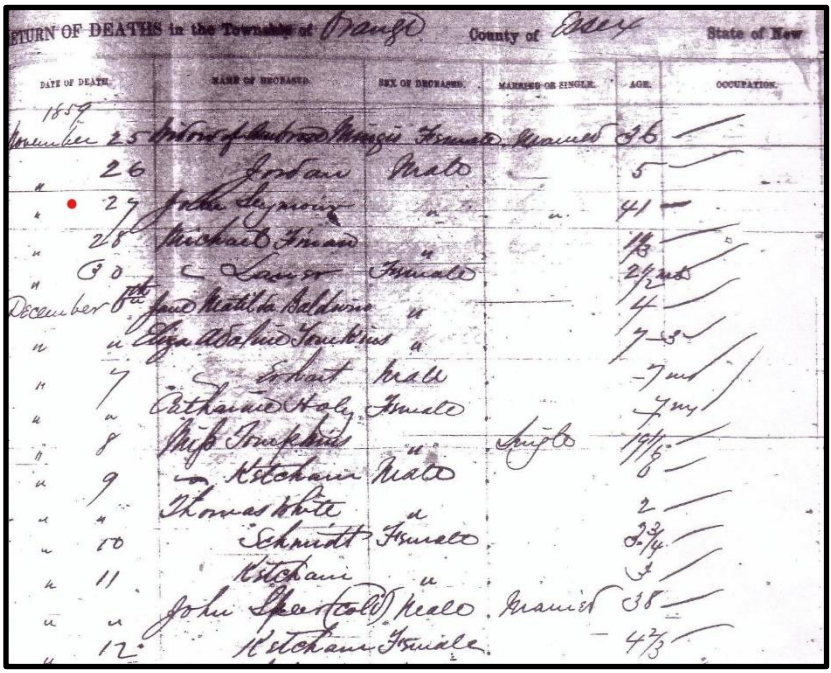


Joseph Seymours Birth Record

His fourth son, my great-granduncle, Joseph M. Seymour, was born on 2 June 1856.

John's second daughter, my great-grandaunt, Frances T. (Fanny), was born on 17 January 1858.

Great-Great-Grandfather John Seymours Death Record



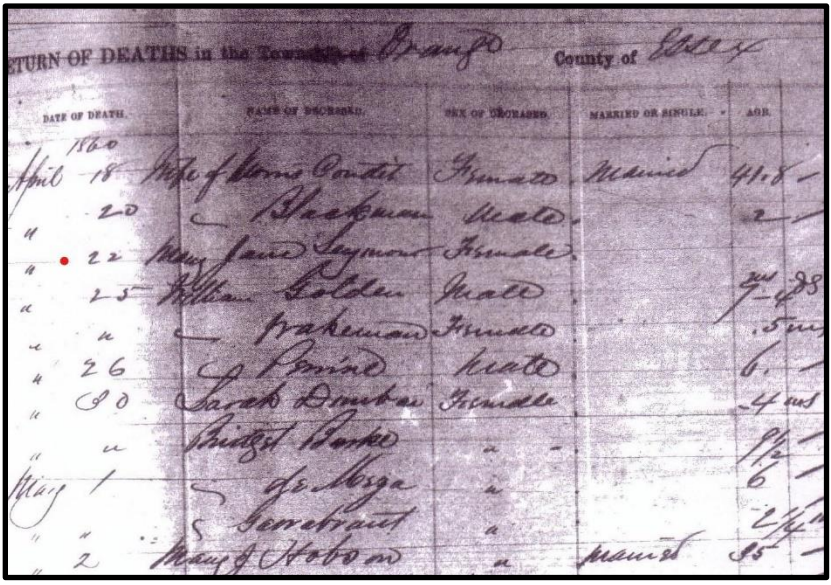
RETURN OF DEATHS in the Township of Orange County of Essex State of New

DATE OF DEATH.	NAME OF DECEASED.	SEX OF DECEASED.	MARRIED OR SINGLE.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.
1859 November 25	Widow of Andrew Morgan	Female	Married	36	
" 26	Jordan	Male		5	
" 27	John Seymour	"		41	
" 28	Michael Friend	"		11/12	
" 30	Laura	Female		2 yrs	
December 6th	Jane Matilda Baldwin	"		4	
" "	Eliza Adelaide Tomkins	"		7	
" 7	Robert	Male		7 mo	
" "	Catharine Daly	Female		4 mo	
" 8	Mich Tompkins	"	Single	19	
" 9	Ketchum	Male		8	
" "	Thomas White	"		2	
" 10	Schmidt	Female		2 3/4	
" 11	Ketchum	"		3	
" "	John Speerstahl	Male	Married	38	
" 12	Ketchum	Female		4 3/12	

John Seymour Death Certificate

As shown on the third line above, his father, John, died on November 27, 1859 at age 41 leaving Margaret with five young children. John's probate was recorded on 14 December 1859. He had died without a will. Margaret was the Administratrix, however, documents revealed that she could neither read nor write. I suspect she spoke in her native Irish or Gaelic tongue. She signed the documents with her mark which was in the form of a Christian cross. Perhaps she considered this the sign of the cross. This required the assistance of an Albert Pierson as a party to an obligation to pay $100.00 to the Surrogate, Mr. John Whitehead. This was likely a probate bond to protect the heirs of John's estate. Pierson was born in New Jersey about 1800 and was a well-to-do resident of Orange. County land ownership maps reveal several properties held by the Pierson family.

Great-grandaunt Mary Jane Seymours Death Record

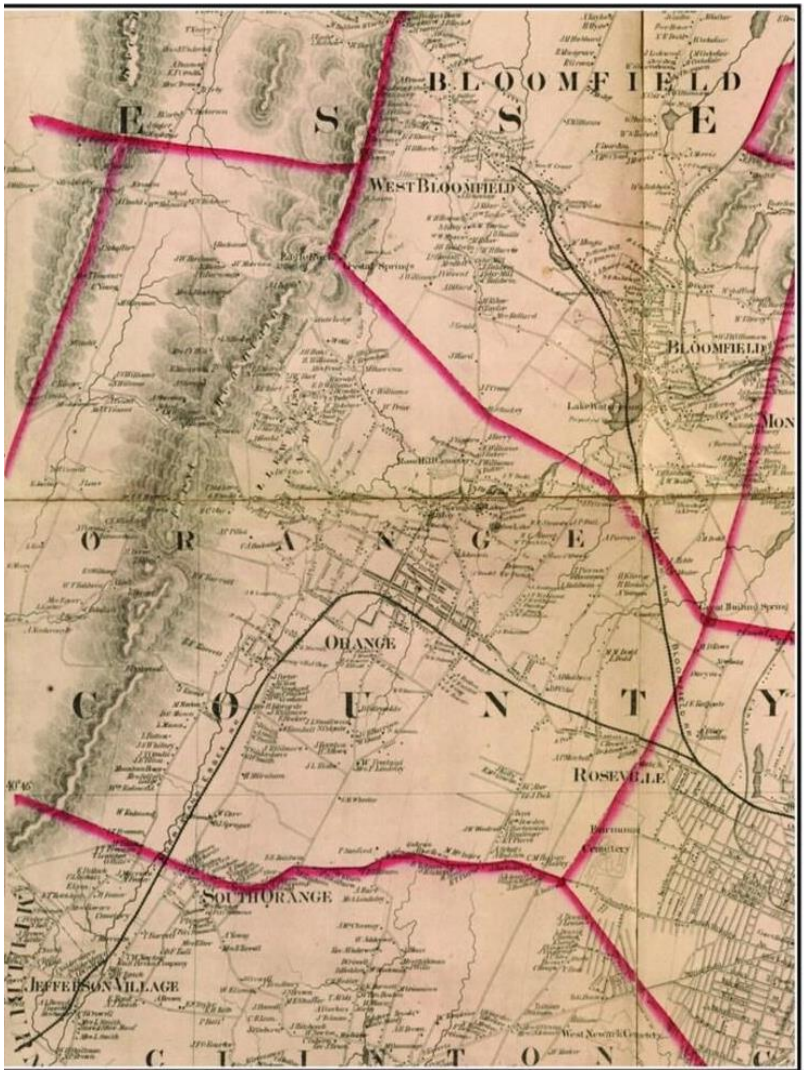


RETURN OF DEATHS in the Township of Bruce County of Grey

DATE OF DEATH.	NAME OF DECEASED.	SEX OF DECEASED.	MARRIED OR SINGLE.	AGE.
1860				
April 18	Wife of Thomas Condit	Female	Married	41 8
" 20	Blackman	Male		2
" 22	Mary Jane Seymour	Female		
" 25	William Golden	Male		2m 4d
" "	Blakeman	Female		5m
" 26	Pomind	Male		6
" 30	Sarah Dunbar	Female		4 ms
" "	Bridget Burke	"		9½
May 1	de Moya	"		6
" "	Secretaut	"		2½
" 2	Mary J Hobbon	"	married	85

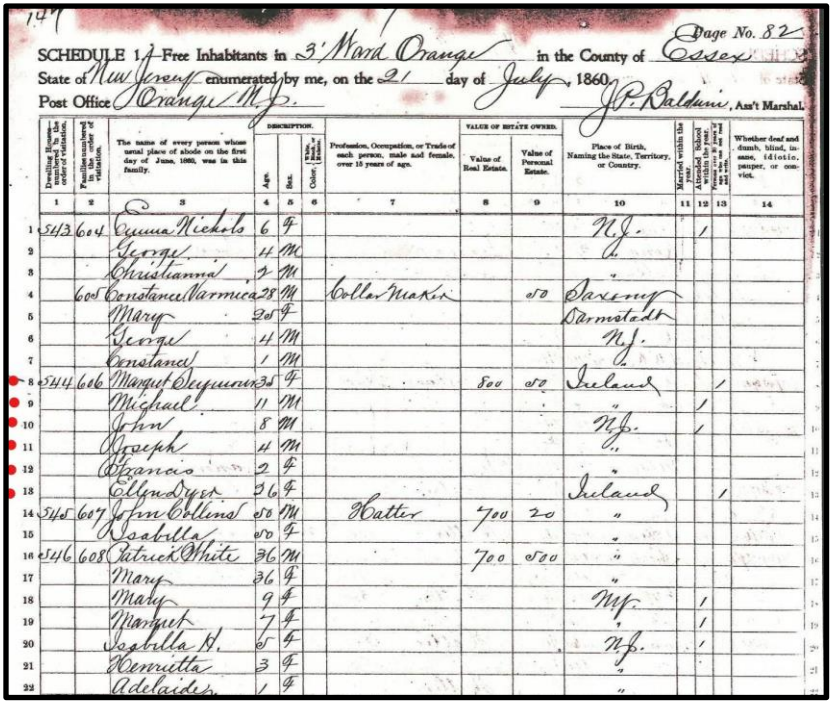
Mary Jane Seymours Death Record

As shown on the third line above, Mary Jane died shortly after her father on 22 April 1860.



1860 Map of Orange, New Jersey

1860 Federal Census



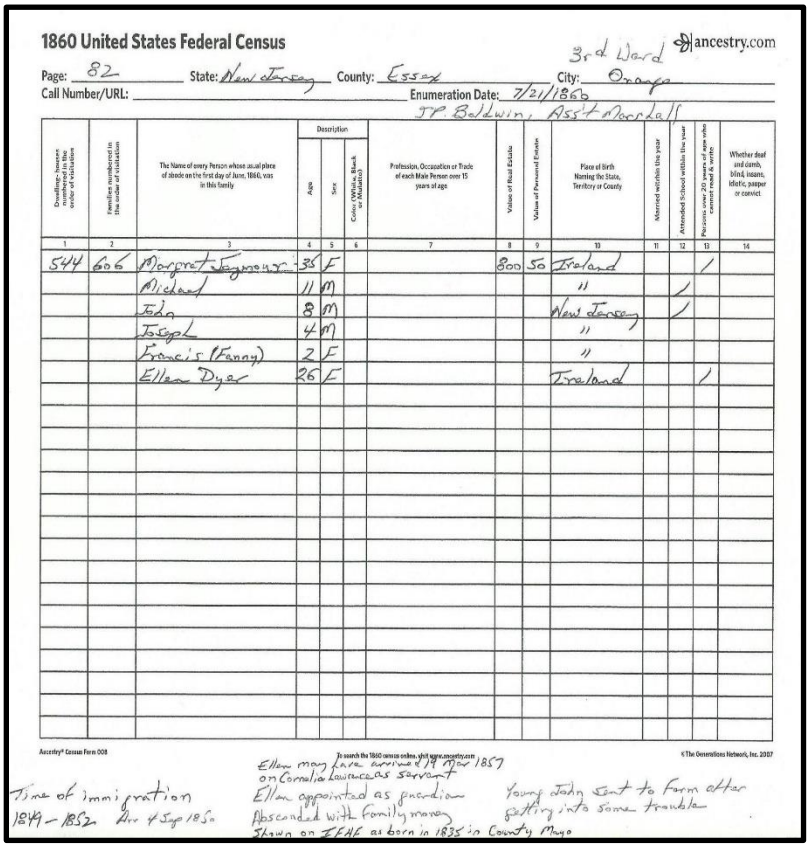
SCHEDULE 1. — Free Inhabitants in 3rd Ward Orange in the County of Essex
State of New Jersey enumerated by me, on the 21 day of July, 1860. J. P. Baldwin, Ass't Marshal.
Post Office Orange N.J.

Page No. 82

	Dwelling Houses numbered in the order of visitation	Families numbered in order of visitation	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Age	Sex	Color (Black, or Mulatto)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country	Married within the year	Attended School within the year	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read and write	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	543	604	Emma Nichols	6	F					N.J.		1		
2			George	4	M					"				
3			Christianna	2	M					"				
4		605	Constance Warmica	28	M		Cellar Maker		50	Saxony				
5			Mary	25	F					Darmstadt				
6			George	4	M					N.J.				
7			Constance	1	M					"				
8	544	606	Margt Seymour	35	F			800	50	Ireland		1		
9			Michael	11	M					"		1		
10			John	8	M					N.J.		1		
11			Joseph	4	M					"				
12			Francis	2	F					"				
13			Ellen Dyer	36	F					Ireland		1		
14	545	607	John Collins	50	M		Hatter	700	20	"				
15			Isabella	50	F					"				
16	546	608	Patrick White	36	M			700	500	"				
17			Mary	36	F					"				
18			Mary	9	F					N.J.		1		
19			Margt	7	F					"		1		
20			Isabella H.	5	F					N.J.		1		
21			Henrietta	3	F					"				
22			Adelaide	1	F					"				

1860 Federal Census for Margaret Seymour Family

At the time of the 1860 Census on 21 July 1860, Margaret had brought Ellen Dyer into the household to assist her. Ellen was also born in Ireland and was about nine years younger than Margaret. She too could not read or write. Below the census is transcribed onto a Family Group Sheet.



1860 United States Federal Census

3rd Ward — ancestry.com

Page: 82 State: New Jersey County: Essex City: Orange

Call Number/URL: Enumeration Date: 7/21/1860

JP Baldwin, Asst Marshall

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation	Families numbered in the order of visitation	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family	Description: Age	Description: Sex	Description: Color (White, Black or Mulatto)	Profession, Occupation or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth Naming the State, Territory or County	Married within the year	Attended School within the year	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read & write	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper or convict
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
544	606	Margret Seymour	35	F			800	50	Ireland			✓	
		Michael	11	M					"		✓		
		John	8	M					New Jersey		✓		
		Joseph	4	M					"				
		Francis (Fanny)	2	F					"				
		Ellen Dyer	26	F					Ireland			✓	

Ancestry® Census Form 008 — To search the 1860 census online, visit www.ancestry.com — © The Generations Network, Inc. 2007

Time of immigration 1849 – 1852 Ellen 4 Sept 1850

Ellen may have arrived 19 Nov 1857 on Cornelia Lawrence as servant

Ellen appointed as guardian

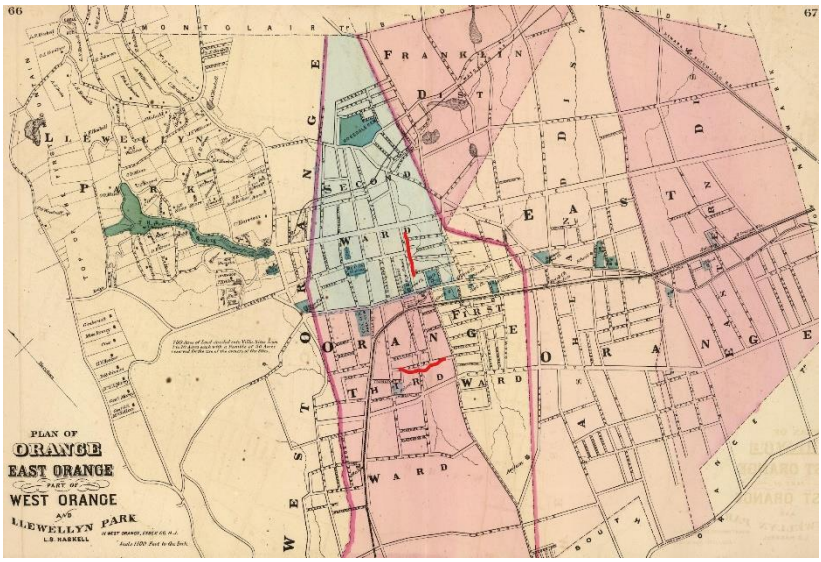
Absconded with family money

Shown on FFHF as born in 1835 in County Mayo

Young John sent to Farm after getting into some trouble

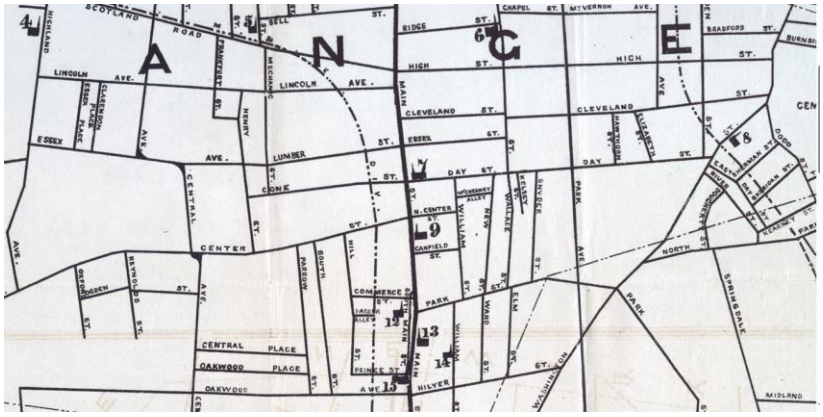
1860 Family Group Sheet for Margaret Seymour

As a widow, Margaret now had four children to raise. In 1860, as shown on the form above, Ellen Dyer, a servant from Ireland assisted in the household duties. From information received from cousin Jane Totah Davis, Ellen was appointed as a guardian after John was sent to a farm for getting into trouble. She then proceeded to abscond with the family money.



1872 Map of Orange, East Orange and West Orange

The above map shows the layout of Orange after the Seymours settled there. For the first few decades, they lived on Henry Street, marked by the horizontal red line at the lower center of the map. Later, they moved to Day Street, marked by the vertical red line in the center. The Morris and Essex Railroad is depicted by the heavy black line with a gradual turn at the center of the city. The Morris and Essex later became part of the main line of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. Main Street is just above the east-west coordinate of the railroad. A simplified map of Orange is shown below:



Simplified Map of Orange - 1878

Immigrant Friends and Relatives

By 1892, there were 21 firms in Orange engaged in hat making employing over 3,700 people. In 1850, the Seymours next door neighbors were also Irish immigrants. Many also moved to Orange to work in the hat factories. Among the neighbors, the name Cusick (Cusack) stands out as possible relatives. The Cusack surname is of Anglo-Norman origin and is almost exclusively Irish. Over 30 Cusack's emigrated from Limerick to New York between 1847 and 1850, the majority preceding the Seymours. John's mother's maiden name was Mary Cusack and all had emigrated from Limerick as well. Neighbor Thomas Cusack arrived the year before John and may have helped with employment and living arrangements. This seems particularly true since a Thomas Cusack was one of the 31 Hatters Guild members listed with John in the Guilds of Limerick Directory in 1840. At that time, Thomas was employed by William St. Laurence who managed a hat factory at 3 Patrick Street. This location is only a few blocks away from Bedford Row where John Joseph (J.J.) Seymour was recorded as a resident (occupier) on Griffith's Valuation in 1850. The Seymour and Cusack surnames are recorded in the same household in Limerick City on both 1901 and 1911 Irish Census'. The household is on Wickham Street which is less than a half mile from J.J. Seymours Bedford Row address. In

1901 and 1911, Elizabeth Seymour is shown as the head of household with Jeremiah Cusack first as a visitor and then a lodger. Elizabeth appears to have been born in Limerick City a few years before John and Margaret emigrated to New York. On the 1901 Census at age 15, Jeremiah was listed as a scholar. In 1911 at age 25, he was working as a railway assistant. It is interesting to note that Jeremiah's middle name on the 1911 Census began with an S. As with Seymour, Cusack is an Irish family name of Norman origin. The name was originally from Cussac in Guienne (Aquitaine), France. Unlike Seymour, the surname died out in England, but is common in Ireland. The Norman origin of the Seymour name was outlined at the beginning of this book.

Other neighbors from Ireland were the Gaffeys and the Loves. I have yet to find any other Seymours, however, it could be that the name was misspelled. For example, our Seymours were identified as the Leynons. The Spottiswoode surname seems to be connected with the Seymours in both Limerick and Orange. On a passport application by George Spottiswoode of Orange in 1893, it states that he was born in Cahir, Ireland on 23 November 1832 and emigrated to the US from Limerick on the Eliza Ann arriving on 3 March 1850. This being six months before John's arrival gives some likelihood that they may have known each other.

Ad in City Directory

Spottiswoode became a well-known coal, wood and lumber merchant in Orange partnered with a Thomas M. Cusack. Based on the City of Orange Land Ownership Map of the 1880s, Spottiswoode owned a significant amount of property on both sides of the Morris & Essex Railroad tracks. The map also shows the buildings at the corner of Main and Day. There was a Music Hall on the corner and the building that would be Seymours Cafe is also shown. Spottiswoode's home was at 43 Cleveland Street. His second wife Sarah was a physician. Thomas Cusack lived a few

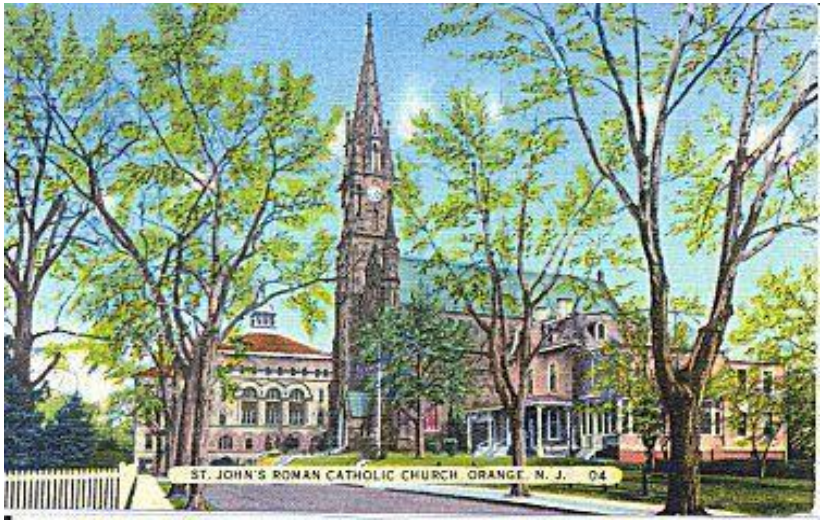
doors away. The 1880 Census shows a John Spottiswoode living in Orange with a date of birth of 1840 in Ireland. John served for three years in the Civil War and worked as a hatter where he likely knew my great-grandfather. In 1880 he lived at Matthews and Frankfort Streets (only one block away from the Seymours), but later moved to 88 Mitchell Street where his occupation was listed as a flagman. This may be George's younger brother. From the Census records, George's descendants remained in Orange through the 1920s and would have known my grandfather. In all, over 10,000 immigrants arrived from Limerick during these years with the predominance arriving from late spring until early fall.

St. Johns Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery

Seymour Headstone at St. Johns Cemetery

My great-great-grandfather, John Seymour and great-granduncle, Francis Seymour were buried at St. Johns Catholic

Cemetery in Orange. The headstone (erected by Margaret) lies just inside the Chapel Street entrance adjacent to the church and school. The plot is located on a slope to the right and the stone is now broken and is barely readable. Buried with John and Francis are my great-grandaunt, Mary Jane age 5; grandaunt Frances Seymour age 1 year 2 months (daughter of my great-grandfather, John Joseph Seymour); and great-great-grandmother, Margaret age 67.



St. Johns Roman Catholic Church

My great-grandfather, John Joseph Seymour, was baptized at the newly founded St. Johns Roman Catholic Church by the Reverend Terrence Kiernan on 8 July 1852. The church was located in Orange on the highest hill west of Manhattan and east of the Watchung mountains. St. Johns was the first Catholic institution established in the Oranges and is known as the "Mother Church of the Oranges." The sponsors were Michael Tobin and Mrs. Reilly. John's sister Mary Jane was born on 3 February 1855; brother Joseph M. was born on 2 June 1856; and sister Frances (Fanny) T. was born on 17 January 1858. Frances (recorded as Francis) was baptized on 7 February. The sponsors were Michael Hartman and Catherine Murray.

Inside St. John's Church

There are two other plots with Seymour ancestors in St. John's Cemetery described below.

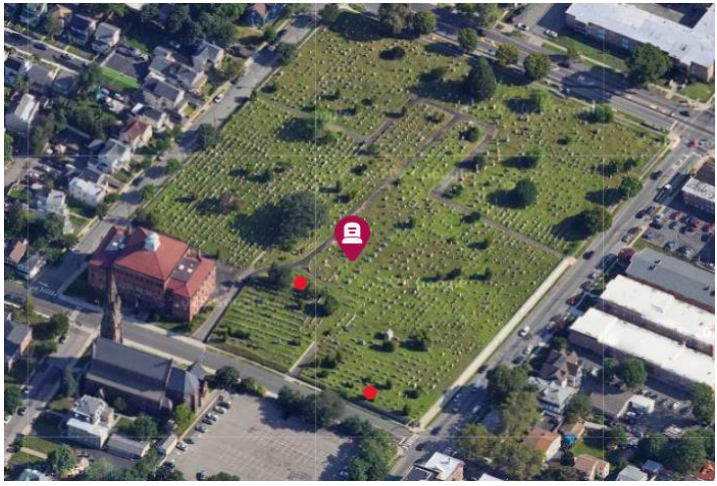
Michael F. Seymour Headstone, St. John's Cemetery

One contains the remains of great-granduncle, Michael F. Seymour 1850-1928; wife of great -granduncle, Sarah G. Gegan Seymour 1853-1881; great-grandaunt, Francis T. Seymour 1861-1931, first cousin twice removed, Therese G. Seymour 1876-1964, first cousin twice removed, John F. Seymour 1878-1944 and first cousin twice removed, Kate Seymour Manderscheid 1880-1948.

John Seymour Headstone, St. John's Cemetery

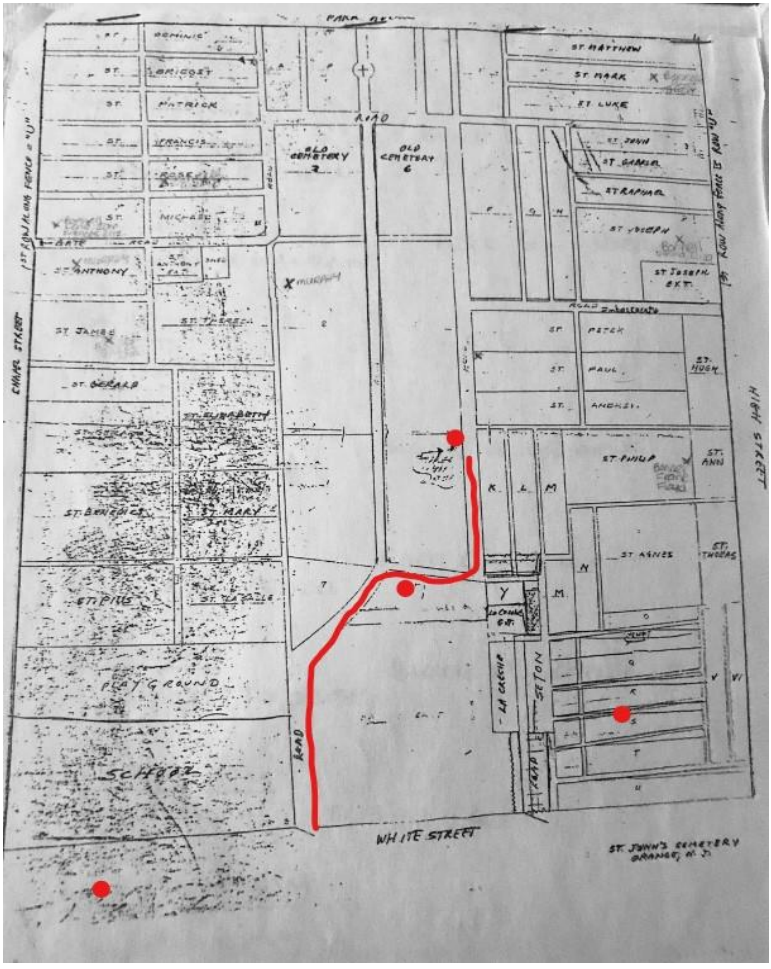
The other contains the remains of my great-grandfather, John Seymour 1852-1910; my great-grandmother, Selina Browne Seymour 1853-1892; my granduncle, Louvier Seymour 1882-1888; my grandfather, Arthur Seymour 1876-1952; husband of my grandaunt Selim Totah 1893-1942; my grandaunt Catherine Seymour 1895-1951; my mother, Muriel Higgins Seymour 1918-1955; and my grandmother. Justine Seymour 1883-1966.

St. John's Cemetery with Church and School in Background



Three dimensional View of St, Johns Cemetery

Above is a three dimensional view of St. Johns Cemetery with the three Seymour plots marked in red. The church and school are at the lower right.

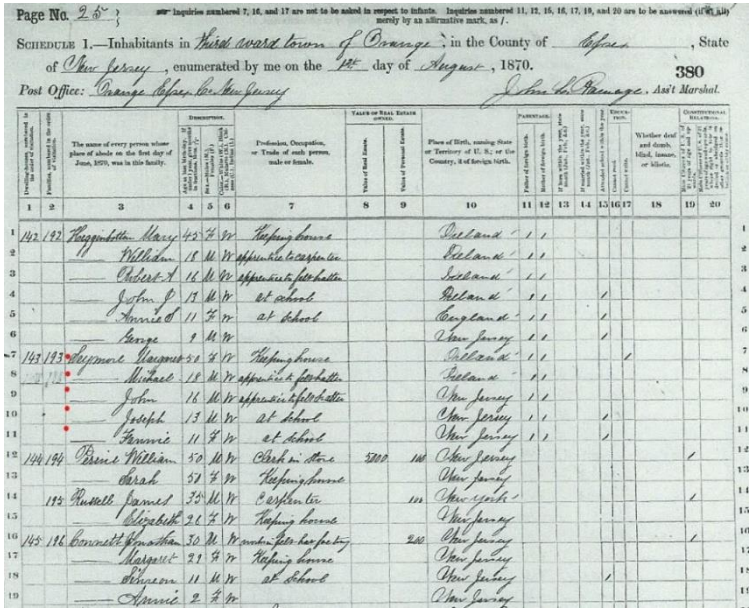


St. John's Cemetery Map

As shown above, St. John's Cemetery is bordered by Park Avenue on the north, Chapel Street on the west, White Street on the south and High Street on the east. The church location is marked in red at the lower left. During my visits, I entered the cemetery on the White Street side with the grammar school to my left, as shown by the red line. After passing the playground, I proceeded to the three Seymour headstones marked in red. The first dot is the location of

the first Seymour plot with a broken headstone. In the middle is John Seymours headstone and at the lower right is Michael F, Seymours headstone.

1870 Federal Census



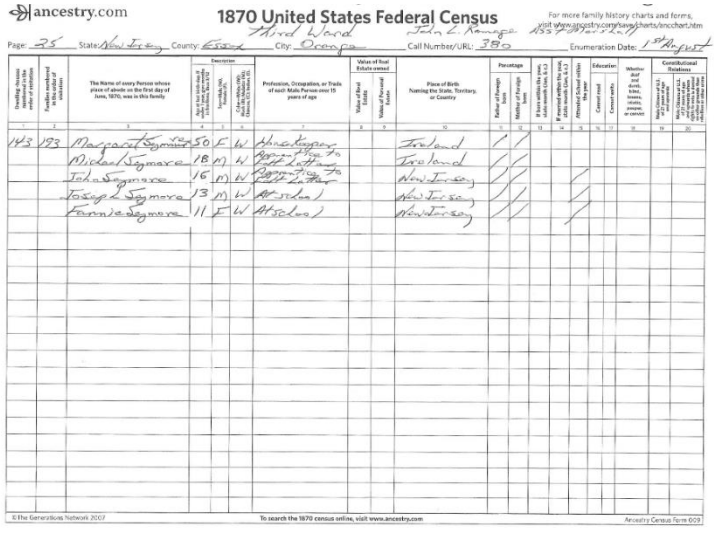
Page No. 25

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Third ward town of Orange, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, enumerated by me on the 1st day of August, 1870. 380

Post Office: Orange Essex Co New Jersey — John L. Remage, Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
142	192	Higginbotton Mary	42	F	W	Keeping house			Ireland										
		William	18	M	W	apprentice to carpenter			Ireland										
		Robert A	16	M	W	apprentice to stonecutter			Ireland										
		John S	13	M	W	at school			Ireland										
		Annie E	11	F	W	at school			England										
		George	9	M	W				New Jersey										
143	193	Seymore Margaret	50	F	W	Keeping house			Ireland										
		Michael	18	M	W	apprentice to stonecutter			Ireland										
		John	16	M	W	apprentice to stonecutter			New Jersey										
		Joseph	13	M	W	at school			New Jersey										
		Fannie	11	F	W	at school			New Jersey										
144	194	Pierce William	50	M	W	Clerk in store	5000	100	New Jersey										
		Sarah	51	F	W	Keeping house			New Jersey										
145		Russell James	35	M	W	Carpenter		100	New York										
		Elizabeth	31	F	W	Keeping house			New Jersey										
146	196	Connett Jonathan	30	M	W	Worker in Leather Manufactory		200	New Jersey										
		Margaret	29	F	W	Keeping house			New Jersey										
		Grayson	11	M	W	at school			New Jersey										
		Annie	2	F	W				New Jersey										

1870 Federal Census for Margaret Seymour



ancestry.com — 1870 United States Federal Census

Page: 25 State: New Jersey County: Essex City: Orange Call Number/URL: 380 Enumeration Date: 1st August

Third Ward — John L. Remage

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
143	193	Margaret Seymore	50	F	W	Housekeeping			Ireland										
		Michael Seymore	18	M	W	Apprentice to Stone Cutter			Ireland										
		John Seymore	16	M	W	Apprentice to Stone Cutter			New Jersey										
		Joseph Seymore	13	M	W	At school			New Jersey										
		Fannie Seymore	11	F	W	At school			New Jersey										

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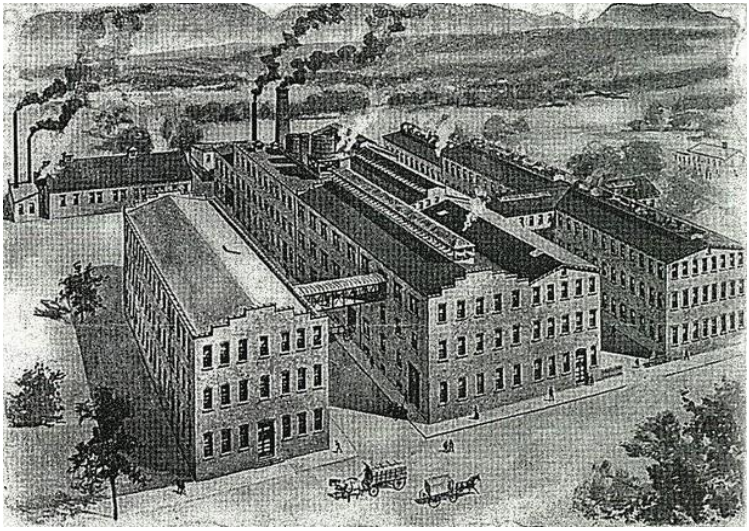
1870 Family Group Sheet for Margaret Seymour

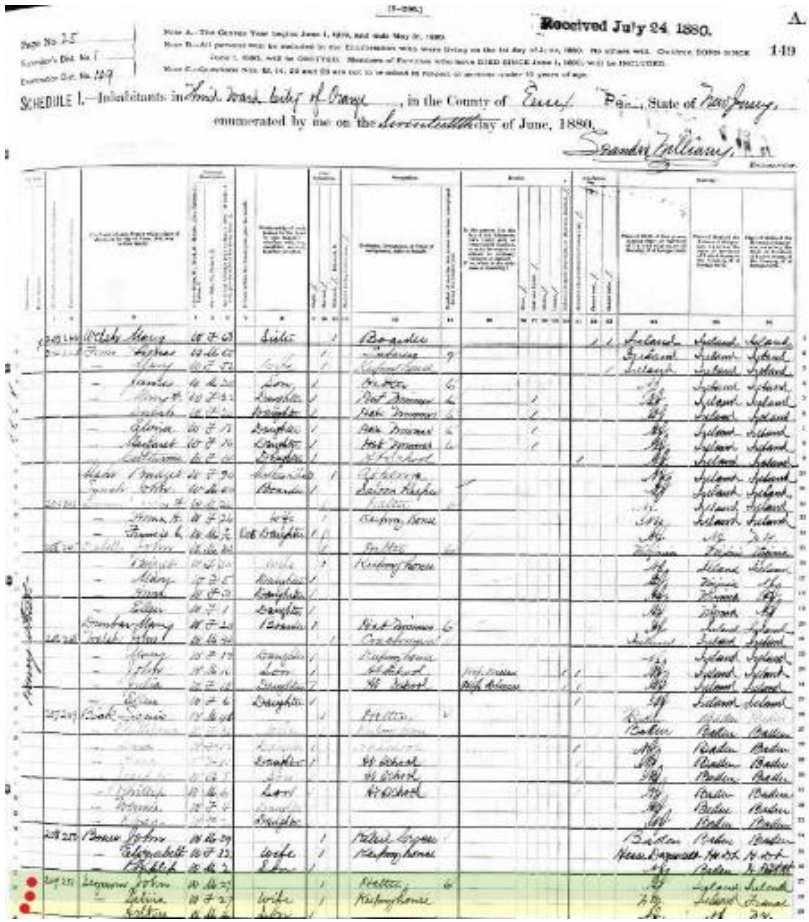
In 1870, as shown on the form above, domestic worker Ellen Dyer, was no longer in the household. Michael and John Seymour, now 18 and 16, entered the workforce as apprentice hatmakers, while Margaret kept house. Joseph, 13, and Frances (Fannie), 11, attended school.



Depiction of No-Name Hat Factory Orange Late 1800s

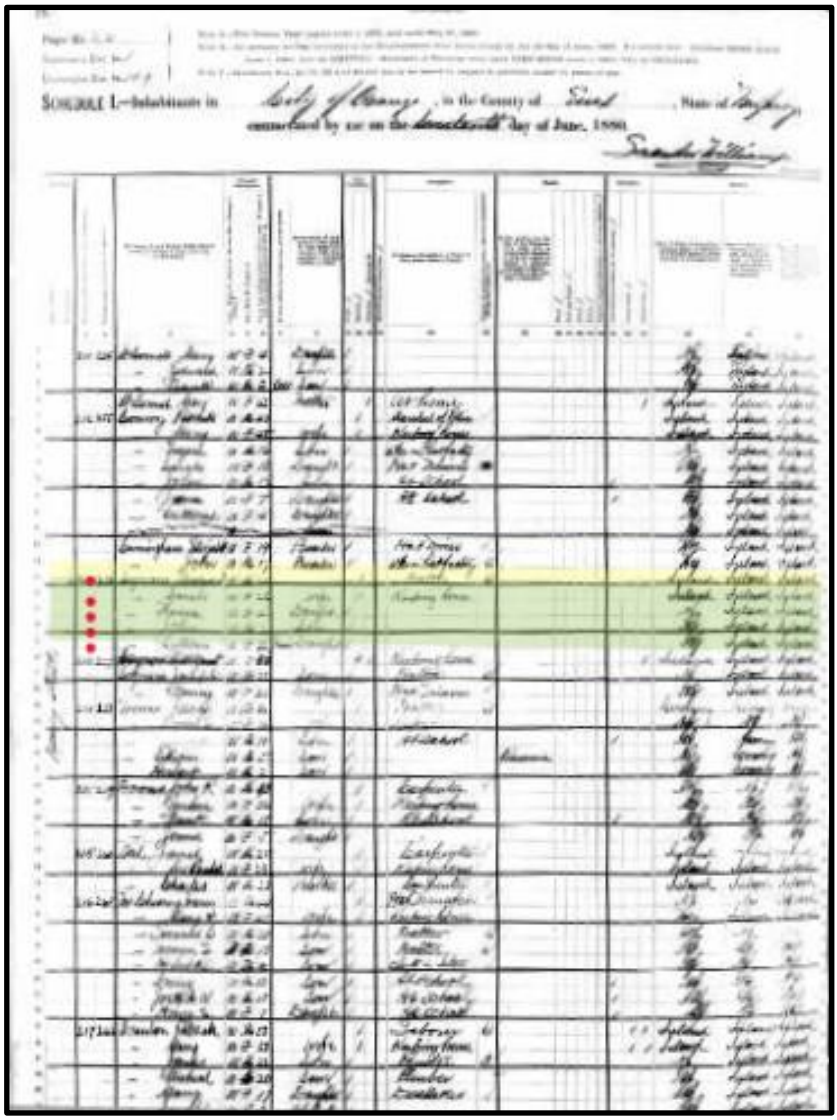
F. Berg Hat Factory Orange 1907

1880 Federal Census



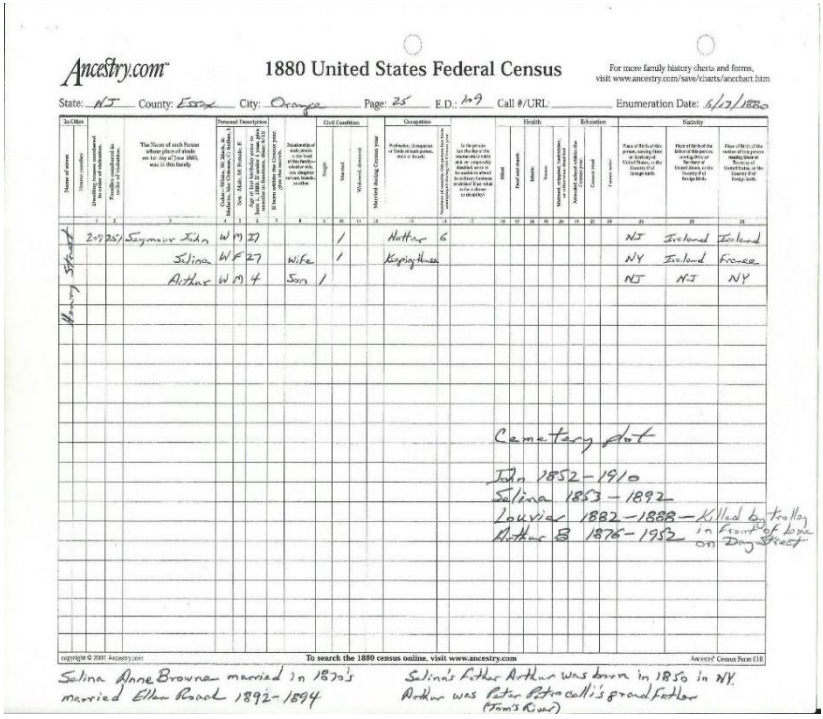
1880 Federal Census

In 1880, my great-grandfather, John, worked as a hatter. He had married Selina Anne Browne in 1873 and my grandfather, Arthur, was four years old. They lived at 209 Henry Street and are marked in red.



1880 Federal Census for Michael Seymour Family

My granduncle, Michael, and his family, as well as my great-great-grandmother, Margaret, granduncle, Joseph, and grandaunt, Frances (Fanny). They lived at 213 Henry Street and are marked in red. Below all family members are transcribed onto Family Group Sheets.



Ancestry.com

1880 United States Federal Census

For more family history charts and forms, visit www.ancestry.com/save/charts/anechart.htm

State: NJ County: Essex City: Orange Page: 25 E.D.: 109 Call #/URL: Enumeration Date: 6/7/1880

Name of person	Relation	Personal Description: Color, Sex, Age	Civil Condition: Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced	Occupation	Health: Blind, Deaf and dumb, Idiotic, Insane, Maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled	Education: Attended school within the Census year, Cannot read, Cannot write	Nativity: Place of Birth of this person, Place of Birth of father of this person, Place of Birth of mother of this person
247 247 Seymour John		W M 27	/	Hatter 6			NJ Ireland Ireland
Selina	Wife	W F 27	/	Keeping House			NY Ireland France
Arthur	Son	W M 4	/				NJ NJ NY
Mary							

Cemetery plot

John 1852–1910
Selina 1853–1892
Louvia 1882–1888 – Killed by trolley in front of home on Day Street
Arthur B 1876–1952

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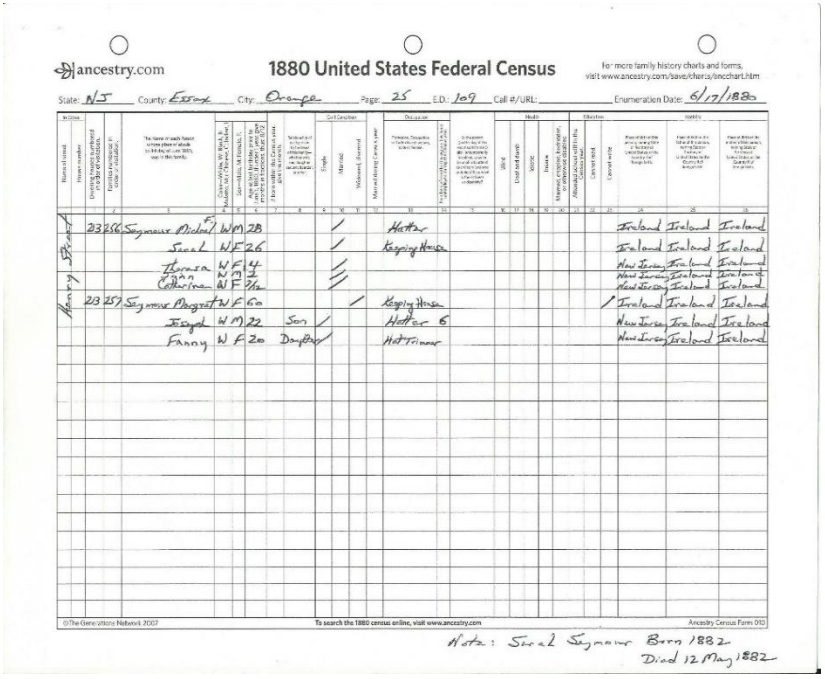
To search the 1880 census online, visit www.ancestry.com

Ancestry Census Form 010

Selina Anne Browne married in 1870's married Ellen Rood 1892–1894

Selina's Father Arthur was born in 1850 in NY. Arthur was Peter Petracelli's grandfather (Tom's Rival)

1880 Family Group Sheet for John Seymour



ancestry.com

1880 United States Federal Census

For more family history charts and forms, visit www.ancestry.com/save/charts/anccchart.htm

State: NJ County: Essex City: Orange Page: 25 E.D.: 109 Call #/URL: Enumeration Date: 6/17/1880

Name of street	House number	Dwelling number in order of visitation	Families number in order of visitation	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June 1880, was in this family.	Color (W, M, B, C, I)	Sex (M, F)	Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880 (If under 1 year, write months in fraction, thus: 6/12)	Relation to head of family	Single	Married	Widowed, Divorced	Occupation	Months at work	Months unemployed	Sick	Blind	Deaf and dumb	Idiotic	Insane	Maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled	Attended school within the year	Cannot read	Cannot write	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person
Henry St.	23	256	256	Seymour Michael	W	M	28			/		Hatter												Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
				Sarah	W	F	26			/		Keeping House												Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
				Theresa	W	F	4			//														New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland
				Catherine	W	F	9/12			//														New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland
	23	257	257	Seymour Margret	W	F	60				/	Keeping House											/	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
				Joseph	W	M	22	Son	/			Hatter 6												New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland
				Fanny	W	F	20	Daughter	/			Hat Trimmer												New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland

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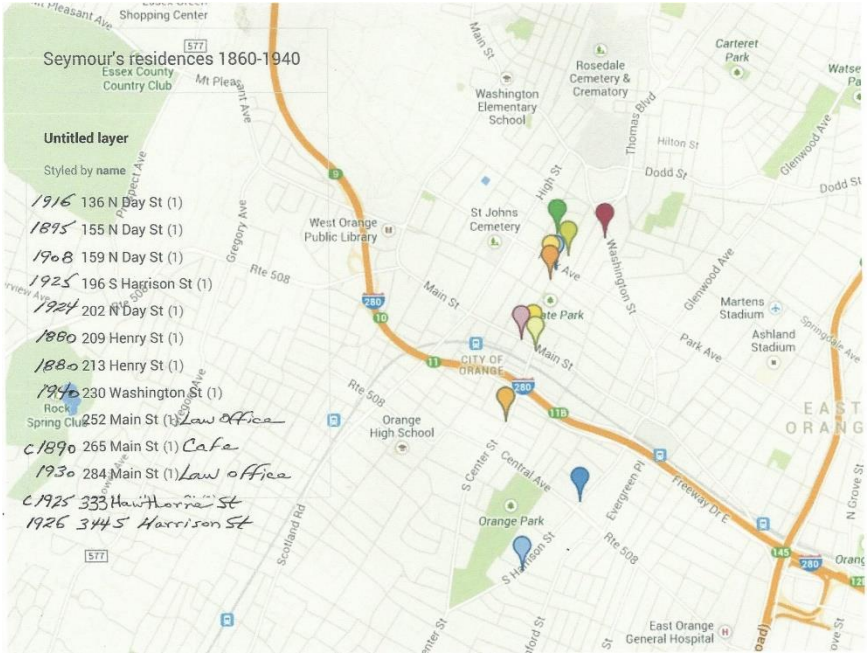
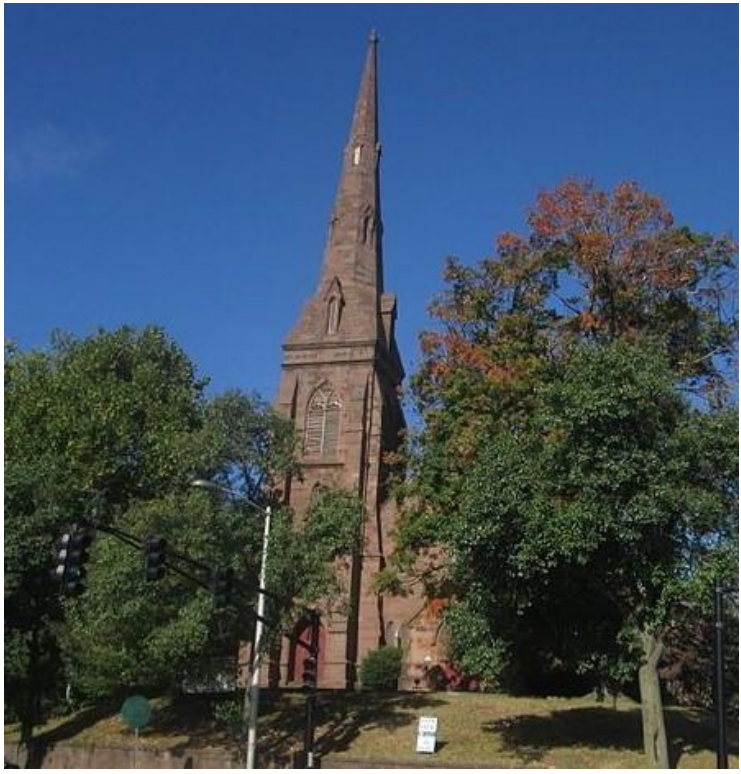
Note: Sarah Seymour Born 1882
Died 12 May 1882

1880 Family Group Sheet for Michael Seymour



Seymour Residences in the Oranges from 1860-1940

The map above shows the locations where the Seymours resided in the Oranges.from 1860-1940. It also shows the location of their law offices and cafe.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church, West Orange, New Jersey

On 23 September 1873, John married Selina Anne Browne at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 13 Main Street at Valley Road in West Orange. Selina was the daughter of Arthur Browne, a tailor, whose father was a weaver and Catherine Louvier, whose father John was a lawyer. The church, built in 1828, was closed in 2004 and nearly destroyed by fire on 1 January 2016.

On 14 April 1875, Michael married Sarah Gegan. In 1875, John and Selina had their first child, a girl Frances, who passed away on 23 March 1876.

Selina with Baby Arthur 1877

Their second child, my grandfather, Arthur Browne Seymour, was born on 7 May 1876. Above is a tintype photo of Selina with Baby Arthur taken in 1877. It is the earliest photo in our family records. On 17 April 1876, Michael and Sarah had their first child Therese, followed by John Edward on 1 October 1879 and Catherine (Kate) on 5 June 1880. Therese worked for Prudential Insurance, John went into real estate and Kate married August Manderschied, moving to 9 Olive Street in Bloomfield.

.

Sanborn Map of Orange 1885

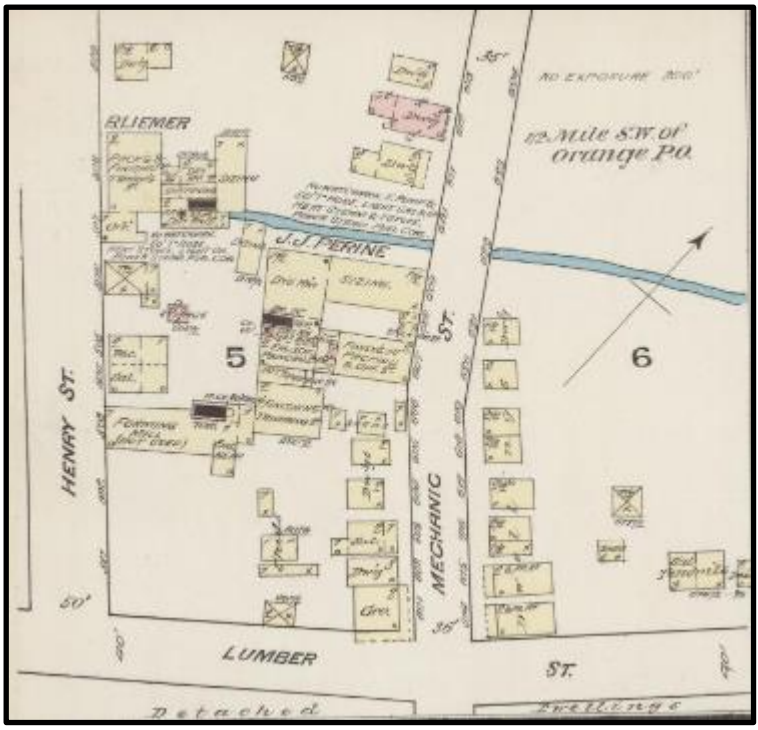
In 1880, Margaret, Joseph and Fanny were living at 213 Henry Street along with Michael, Sarah, John, Edward and Kate. John and Selina were living at 209 Henry Street with Arthur. Henry Street is marked by the red dot on the above map. John, Michael, Joseph and Fanny were still working at a local hat factory.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps were published by the Sanborn Map Company from 1867-1970 to allow fire insurance companies to assess their total liability in urbanized areas of the United States. The maps are accessible at the Library of Congress. Sanborn

published detailed maps of Orange in 1885, 1895, 1912, 1924, 1939 and 1951. I have included maps from 1885, 1895 and 1912 showing where the Seymours lived.

213 Henry Street, Orange, New Jersey

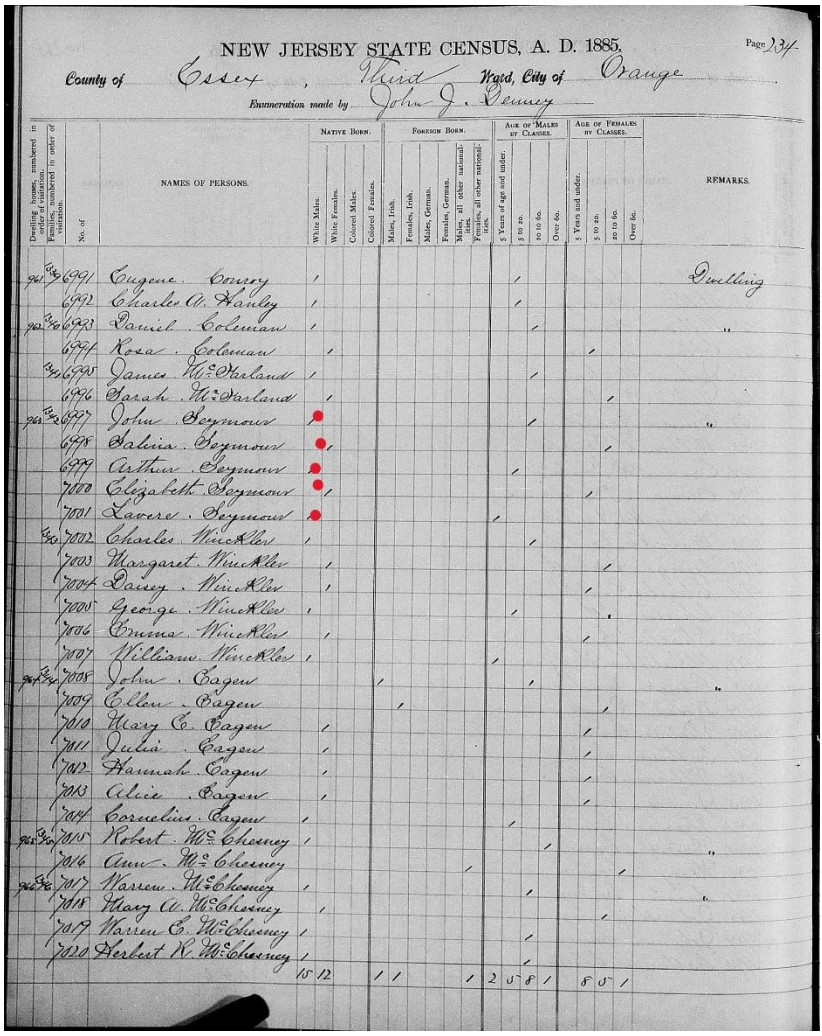
Above is a 2024 photo of the home where Margaret, Joseph, Fanny, Michael, Sarah, John, Edward and Kate Seymour were living at 213 Henry Street.



Henry Street Neighborhood 1885

On 20 June 1881, Selina gave birth to a daughter Elizabeth C. (Lea, Lizzy) and on 8 October 1882 to a son, Louvier. On 24 November 1881, Michael's wife Sarah died of consumption (tuberculosis). With the loss of Sarah, Michael's sister Fanny would play a major role in the upbringing of Therese, John Edward and Kate. Michael remarried a widow, Alicia Daley on 9 June 1883.

1885 New Jersey Census



NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, A. D. 1885.

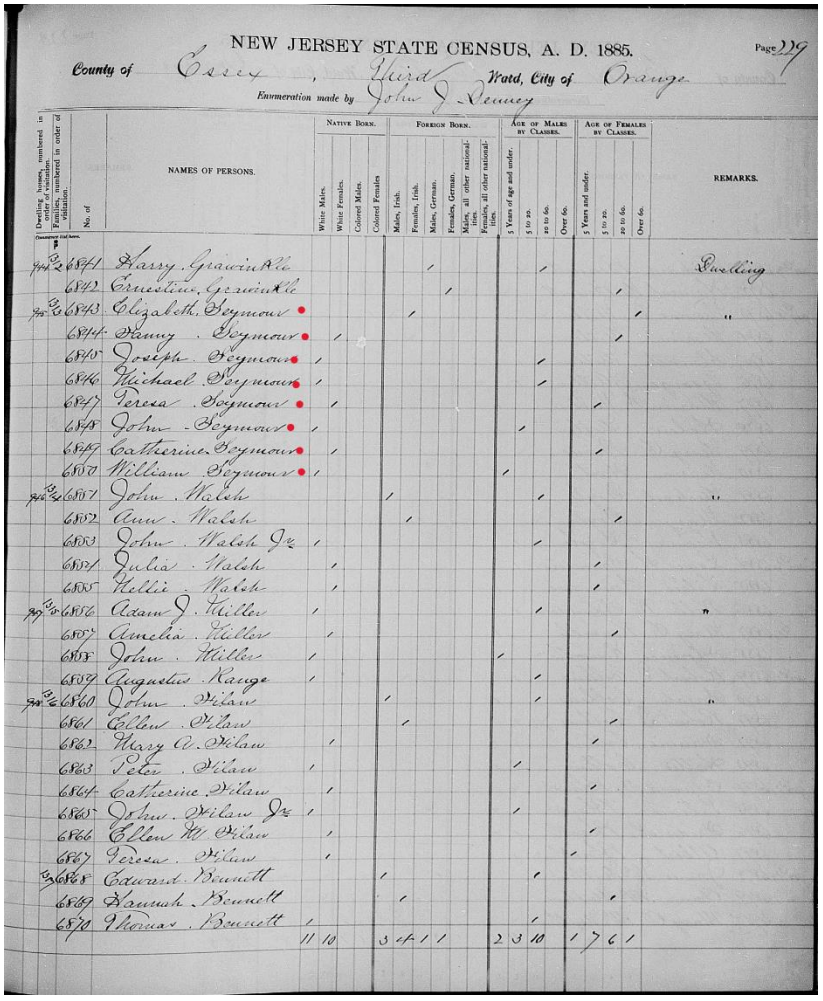
Page 134

County of Essex, Third Ward, City of Orange

Enumeration made by John J. Denney

Dwelling houses, numbered in order of visitation.	Families, numbered in order of visitation.	No. of	NAMES OF PERSONS.	Native Born. White Males.	Native Born. White Females.	Native Born. Colored Males.	Native Born. Colored Females.	Foreign Born. Males, Irish.	Foreign Born. Females, Irish.	Foreign Born. Males, German.	Foreign Born. Females, German.	Foreign Born. Males, all other nationalities.	Foreign Born. Females, all other nationalities.	Age of Males by Classes. 5 Years of age and under.	Age of Males by Classes. 5 to 20.	Age of Males by Classes. 20 to 60.	Age of Males by Classes. Over 60.	Age of Females by Classes. 5 Years and under.	Age of Females by Classes. 5 to 20.	Age of Females by Classes. 20 to 60.	Age of Females by Classes. Over 60.	REMARKS.
941	1134	6991	Eugene Conroy	1											1							Dwelling
		6992	Charles A. Hanley	1											1							
942	1135	6993	Daniel Coleman	1												1						"
		6994	Rosa Coleman		1														1			
	1136	6995	James McFarland	1												1						
		6996	Sarah McFarland		1															1		
943	1137	6997	John Seymour	1												1						"
		6998	Salvia Seymour		1															1		
		6999	Arthur Seymour	1											1							
		7000	Elizabeth Seymour	1															1			
		7001	Lavere Seymour	1										1								
944	1138	7002	Charles Winckler	1												1						
		7003	Margaret Winckler		1															1		
		7004	Daisy Winckler		1														1			
		7005	George Winckler	1											1							
		7006	Emma Winckler		1														1			
		7007	William Winckler	1										1								
945	1139	7008	John Cagen					1								1						"
		7009	Ellen Cagen						1											1		
		7010	Mary E. Cagen		1														1			
		7011	Julia Cagen		1														1			
		7012	Hannah Cagen		1														1			
		7013	Alice Cagen		1														1			
		7014	Cornelius Cagen	1											1							
946	1140	7015	Robert McChesney	1												1						"
		7016	Ann McChesney									1								1		
947	1141	7017	Warren McChesney	1												1						"
		7018	Mary A. McChesney		1															1		
		7019	Warren C. McChesney	1												1						
		7020	Herbert K. McChesney	1												1						
				15	12			1	1			1		2	5	8	1		8	5	1	

1885 New Jersey Census for John Seymour



NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, A. D. 1885. Page 229

County of Essex, Third Ward, City of Orange

Enumeration made by John J. Kenney

Dwelling houses, numbered in order of visitation.	Families, numbered in order of visitation.	No. of	NAMES OF PERSONS.	Native Born. White Males.	Native Born. White Females.	Native Born. Colored Males.	Native Born. Colored Females	Foreign Born. Males, Irish.	Foreign Born. Females, Irish.	Foreign Born. Males, German.	Foreign Born. Females, German.	Foreign Born. Males, all other nationalities.	Foreign Born. Females, all other nationalities.	Age of Males by Classes. 5 Years of age and under.	Age of Males by Classes. 5 to 20.	Age of Males by Classes. 20 to 60.	Age of Males by Classes. Over 60.	Age of Females by Classes. 5 Years and under.	Age of Females by Classes. 5 to 20.	Age of Females by Classes. 20 to 60.	Age of Females by Classes. Over 60.	REMARKS.
134		6841	Harry Gravinkle							1						1						Dwelling
		6842	Ernestine Gravinkle								1									1		
135		6843	Elizabeth Seymour						1												1	"
		6844	Fanny Seymour		1															1		
		6845	Joseph Seymour	1												1						
		6846	Michael Seymour	1												1						
		6847	Teresa Seymour		1														1			
		6848	John Seymour	1											1							
		6849	Catherine Seymour		1														1			
		6850	William Seymour	1										1								
136	1/2	6851	John Walsh					1								1						"
		6852	Ann Walsh						1											1		
		6853	John Walsh Jr	1												1						
		6854	Julia Walsh		1														1			
		6855	Nellie Walsh		1														1			
137	1/2	6856	Adam J. Miller	1												1						"
		6857	Amelia Miller		1															1		
		6858	John Miller	1										1								
		6859	Augustus Kange	1												1						
138	1/2	6860	John Wilan					1								1						"
		6861	Ellen Wilan						1											1		
		6862	Mary A. Wilan		1														1			
		6863	Peter Wilan	1												1						
		6864	Catherine Wilan		1														1			
		6865	John Wilan Jr	1												1						
		6866	Ellen M. Wilan		1														1			
		6867	Teresa Wilan		1															1		
139		6868	Edward Bennett					1								1						
		6869	Hannah Bennett						1											1		
		6870	Thomas Bennett	1												1						
				11	10			3	4	1	1			2	3	10	1	1	7	6	1	

1885 New Jersey Census for Michael Seymour

In May 1885, Alicia Daley Seymour gave birth to a son, William , who only lived until 16 April 1887. William is shown on the 1885 New Jersey State Census. Alicia Seymour was identified as Elizabeth.

ORANGE CITY GOVERNMENT,

1883-84.

Mayor—GEO. H. HARTFORD.

COMMON COUNCIL.

First Ward—ADOLPH BODE, W. H. DODD, EPHRAIM A. KYNOR.
Second Ward—WILLIAM WANG, CHARLES E. METCALF, ROBERT F. GIST, JR.
Third Ward—CHRISTOPHER MCCULLOUGH, LEWIS L. SMITH, JOHN SEYMOUR.

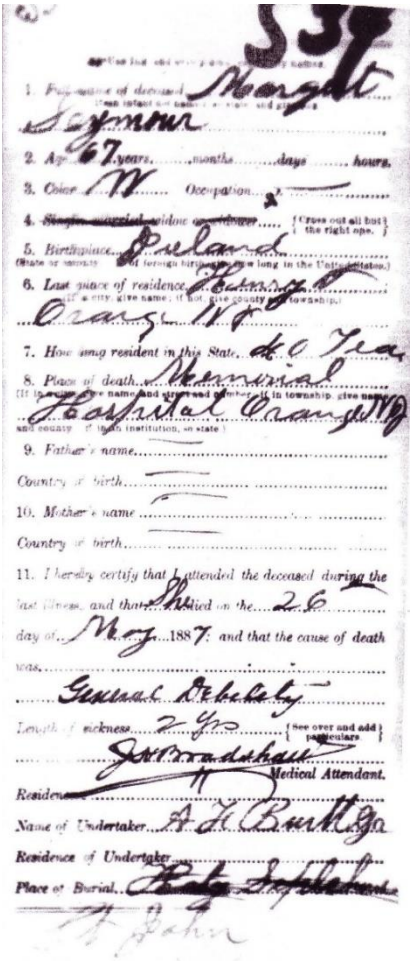
The Mayor is President, *ex-officio*.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF COMMON COUNCIL.

Finance—McCullough, Metcalf, Dodd.
Streets and Highways—Bode, Wang, Smith.
Poor and Alms—Kynor, Wang, Seymour.
Police—Mayor, McCullough, Dodd.
Fire Department—Dodd, Wang, Smith.
Lighting Streets—Metcalf, Kynor, Smith.
Public Schools—Gist, Kynor, McCullough.
Public Health—Wang, Kynor, McCullough.
Ordinances—McCullough, Dodd, Metcalf.
Assessments—Wang, Kynor, Seymour.
Market Stands—Smith, Gist, Kynor.
Printing—Metcalf, Bode, Smith.
Railroads—Seymour, Bode, Metcalf.
Officers and Salaries—Dodd, Gist, Seymour.
Shows and Licenses—Mayor, Smith, Gist.
Elections—Gist, Bode, Seymour.
Contingent Account—Kynor, McCullough, Gist.
Public Buildings—Bode, Smith, Gist.

In 1884, John was elected to the Orange Common Council and was assigned as an Alderman from the Third Ward as shown above.

Great-great-grandmother Margaret Seymours Death



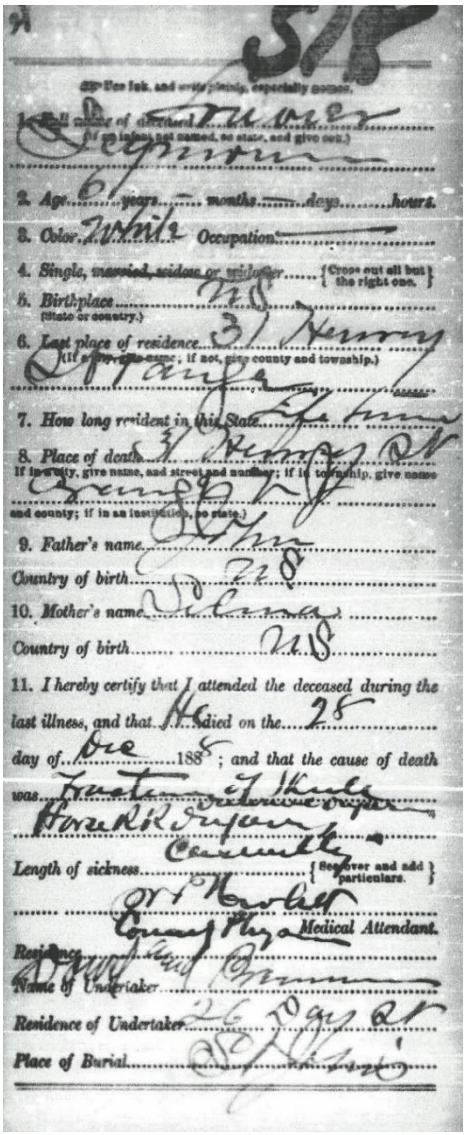
1. Margt
Seymour
2. Age 67 years. months days hours.
3. Color W Occupation
4. [illegible] widow or widower (Cross out all but the right one.)
5. Birthplace Ireland
6. Last place of residence Orange N J
7. How long resident in this State, All Year
8. Place of death Memorial Hospital Orange N J
9. Father's name
Country of birth
10. Mother's name
Country of birth
11. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased during the last illness, and that She died on the 26 day of May 1887; and that the cause of death was
General Debelety
Length of sickness 2 Yrs (See over and add particulars)
J W Bradshaw Medical Attendant.
Residence
Name of Undertaker A H Burth & Son
Residence of Undertaker
Place of Burial

Margaret Seymours Death Certificate

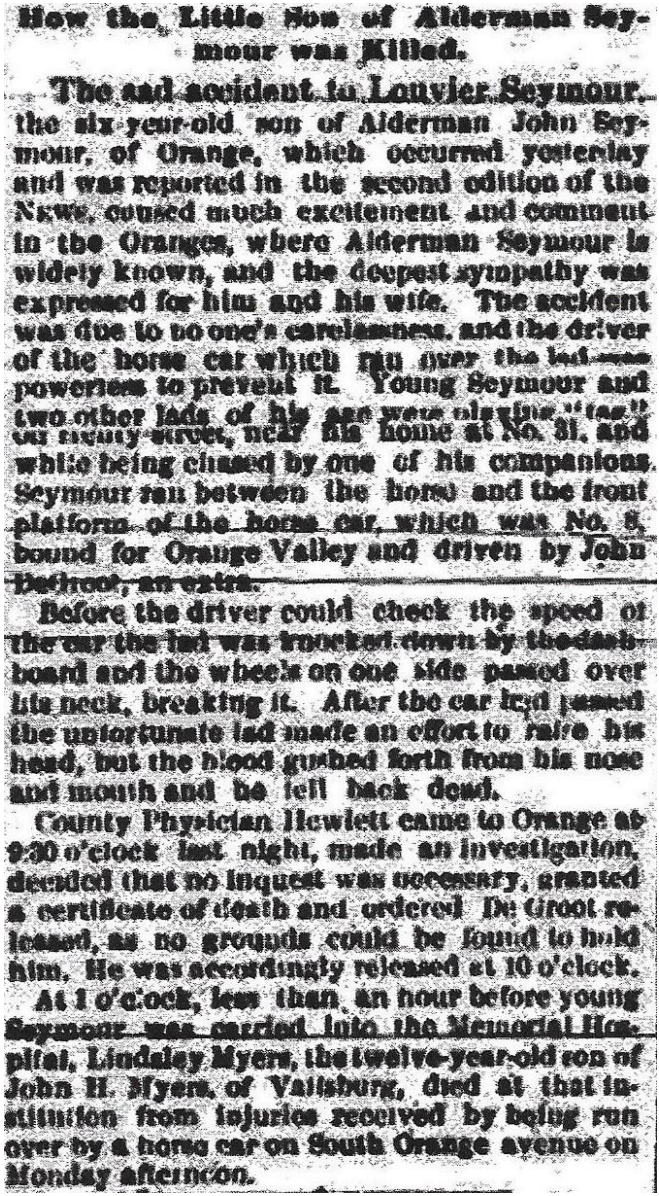
On 26 May 1887, Margaret Seymour died as a result of a hip bruise from a fall at age 67. The cause of death was referred to as general debility. She died in Orange Memorial Hospital which had opened on South Essex Avenue in 1873 and closed in 2004. The death certificate showed that she was born in Ireland and was living on Henry Street at the time of her death.

Orange Memorial Hospital 1907

Granduncle Louvier Seymour's Death



Louvier Seymour's Death Certificate



How the Little Son of Alderman Seymour was Killed.

The sad accident to Louvier Seymour, the six-year-old son of Alderman John Seymour, of Orange, which occurred yesterday and was reported in the second edition of the News, caused much excitement and comment in the Oranges, where Alderman Seymour is widely known, and the deepest sympathy was expressed for him and his wife. The accident was due to no one's carelessness, and the driver of the horse car which ran over the lad was powerless to prevent it. Young Seymour and two other lads of his age were playing "tag" on Henry street, near his home at No. 31, and while being chased by one of his companions, Seymour ran between the horse and the front platform of the horse car, which was No. 8, bound for Orange Valley and driven by John Bathroot, an extra.

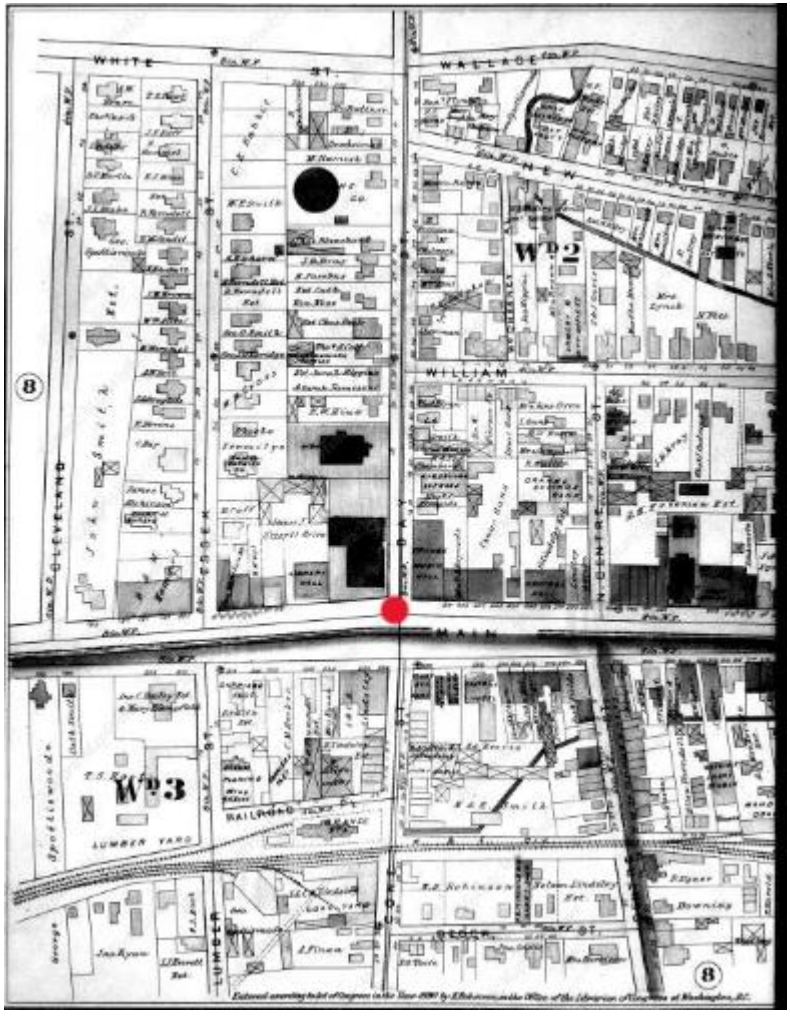
Before the driver could check the speed of the car the lad was knocked down by the dashboard and the wheels on one side passed over his neck, breaking it. After the car had passed the unfortunate lad made an effort to raise his head, but the blood gushed forth from his nose and mouth and he fell back dead.

County Physician Hewlett came to Orange at 9:30 o'clock last night, made an investigation, decided that no inquest was necessary, granted a certificate of death and ordered De Groot released, as no grounds could be found to hold him. He was accordingly released at 10 o'clock.

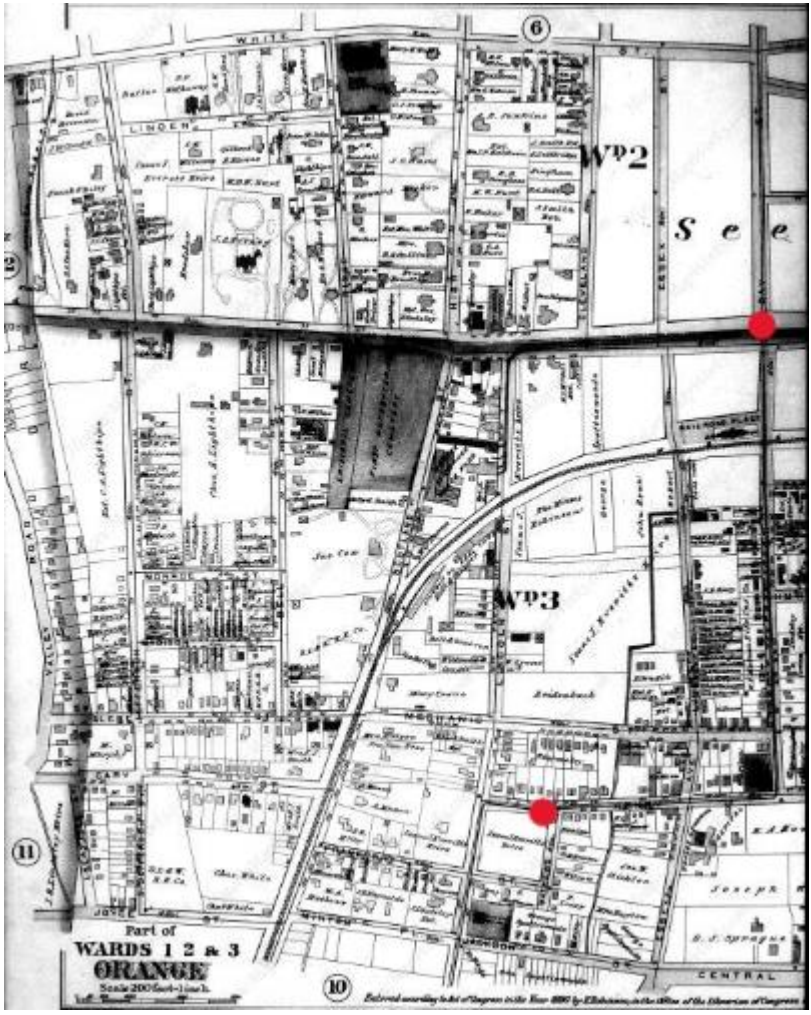
At 1 o'clock, less than an hour before young Seymour was carried into the Memorial Hospital, Lindsley Myers, the twelve-year-old son of John H. Myers, of Vailsburg, died at that institution from injuries received by being run over by a horse car on South Orange avenue on Monday afternoon.

Newark Evening News 29 Dec 1888

In 1888, Louvier Seymour was killed in a horse trolley car accident near his home at 31 Henry Street in Orange. A news account is shown above.



Map of Orange in 1890 with Main & Day Street marked in red

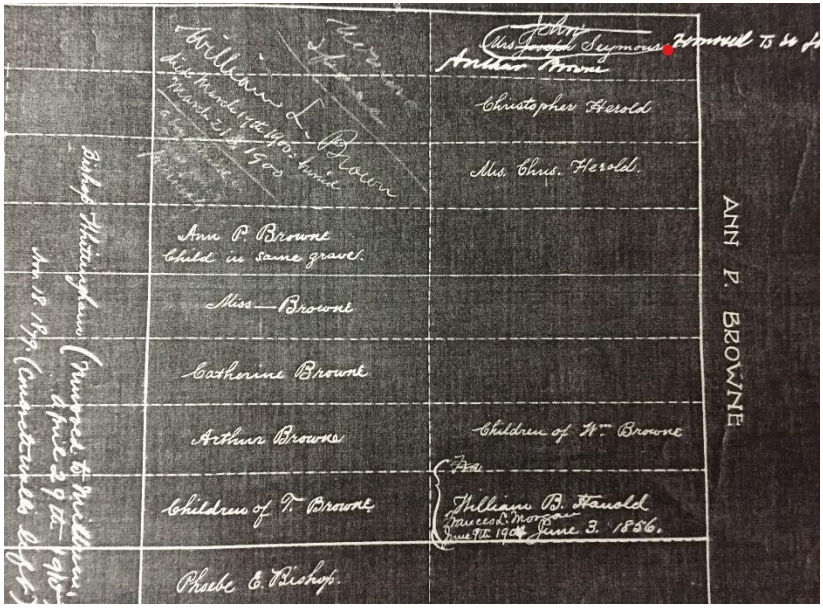


Map of Orange in 1890 with Henry Street marked in red at lower right

The intersection of Main & Day Street are marked in red at upper right

St. Mark's Episcopal Cemetery

Selina died in Orange on 11 February 1892 of pulmonary tuberculosis.



Browne Family Plot, St. Mark's Cemetery

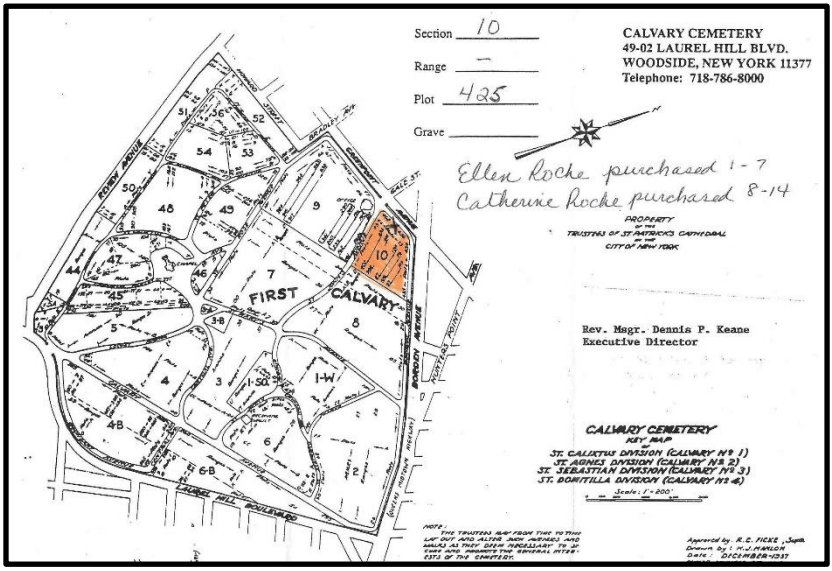
Selina was buried in the Browne family plot at St. Mark's Cemetery on the southwest corner of Main Street and Scotland Road in Orange. She was later moved to St. Johns Cemetery as shown by the red dot on the upper right.

Ellen (Nelle) Roach Seymour

John married Ellen (Nelle) Roach in 1893 and moved to 155 Day Street in 1895. He worked as a tax collector. He was married to Nelle for five years. Over that time, she gave birth to five children, only two survived. Her first died at birth in 1893; her second, Marguerite Josephine, born on 16 April 1894, survived; her third, Catherine Irene, born on 4 October 1895 also survived; her fourth, Genevieve, born on 15 January 1897 lived less than two months; and her fifth, James D. died at birth on 28 November 1898. Nelle died three days later. She was only 28. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Woodside, Queens, New York.

SEYMOUR—At Orange, N. J., December 1, 1898, Ellen I. G. (nee Rouche), beloved wife of John Seymour, aged 39 years. Notice of funeral hereafter.

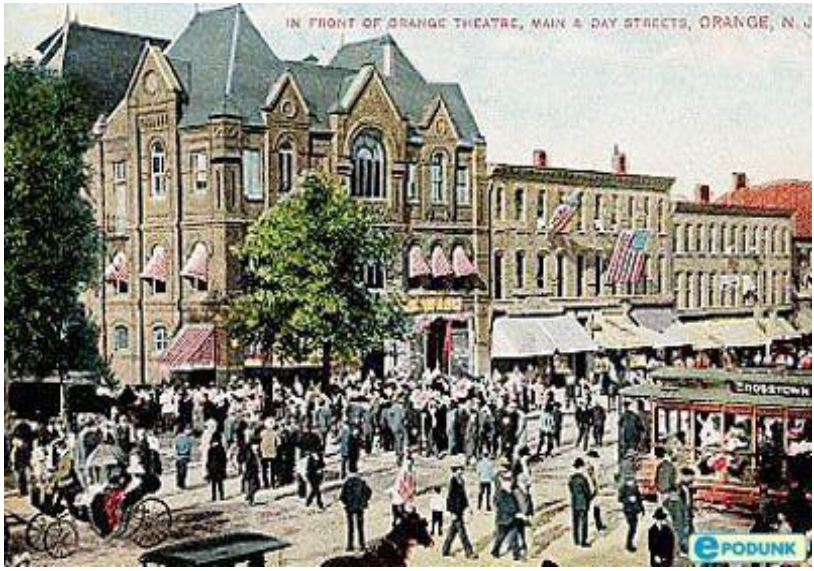
Nelle's Obituary



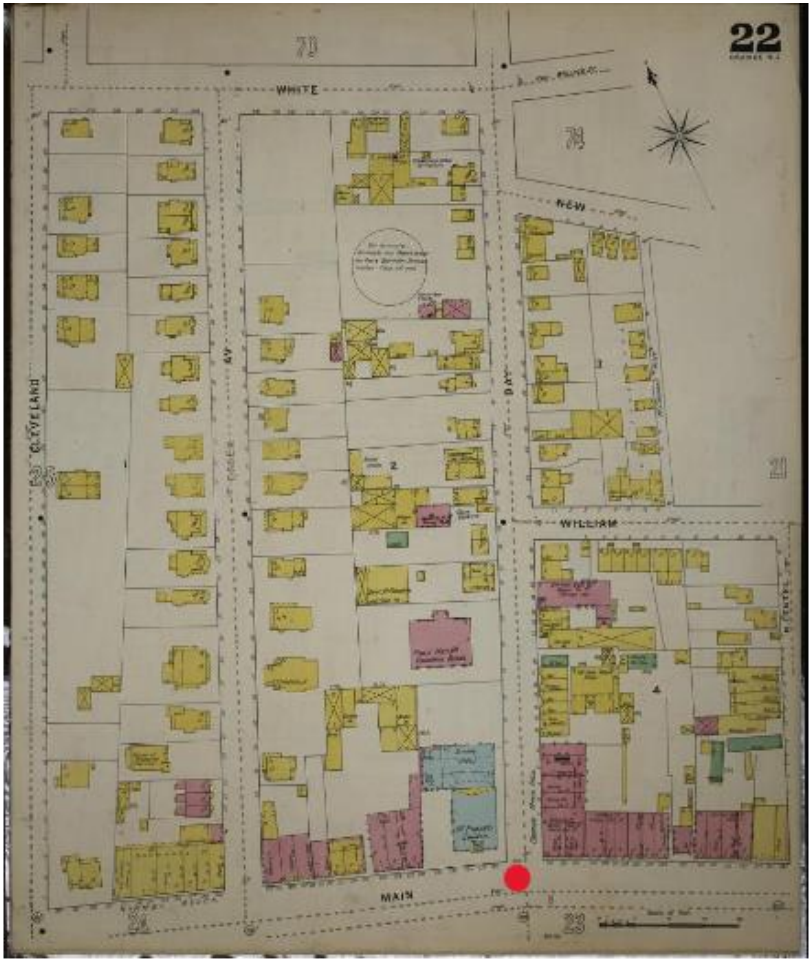
Roche Plot, Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, New York.

Note: Roche is a variation of Roach.

Music Hall Corner of Main and Day



Music Hall at Main and Day Street 1880



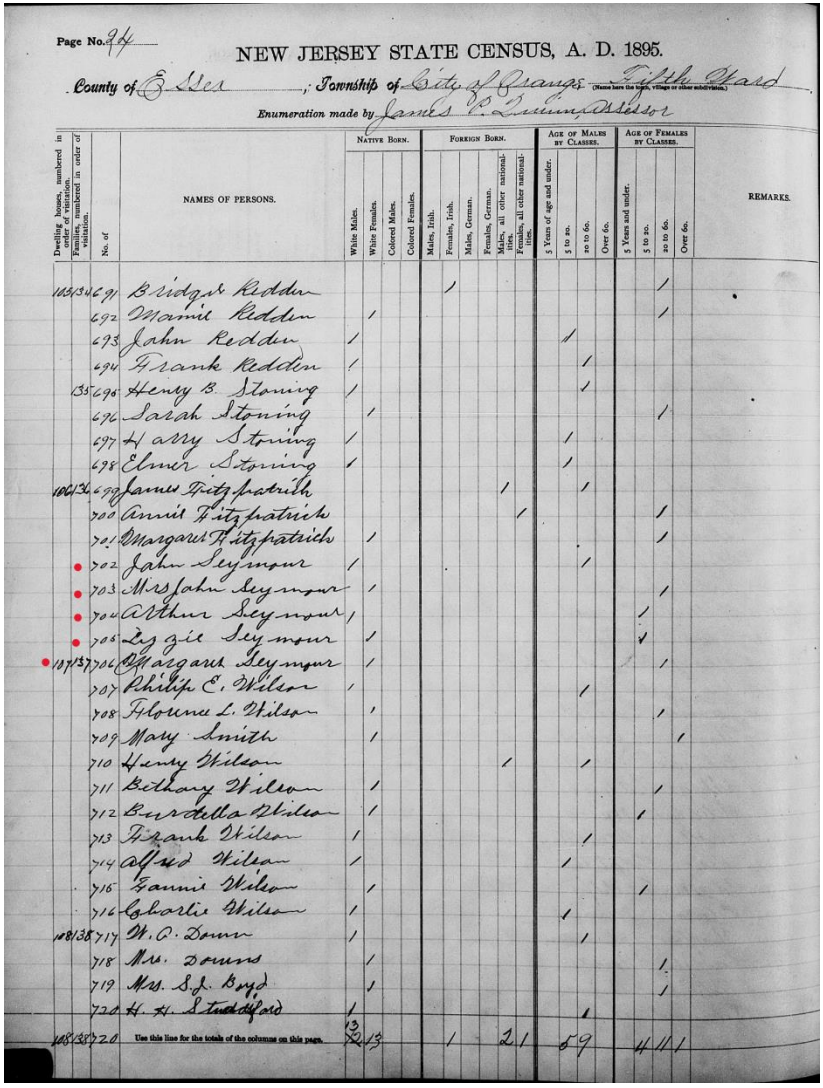
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Orange 1895

The red dot on the above map marks the corner of Main and Day Streets. The Seymour House-Hotel and Saloon is on Main Street to the right of the dot. John Seymours family lived on Day Street above the dot.

Seymour House 1895 Directory

As the 1890s began, Michael Seymour, purchased a saloon hotel known as "Seymour House" at 265 Main Street where they sold imported and domestic wines, liquors and cigars. The saloon was located on the right side of the music hall above. My great-granduncle, Joseph Seymour, operated "Seymour House" until his death from a heart attack on 26 January 1896. His father, Michael, took over the operation.

1895 New Jersey Census



Page No. 94

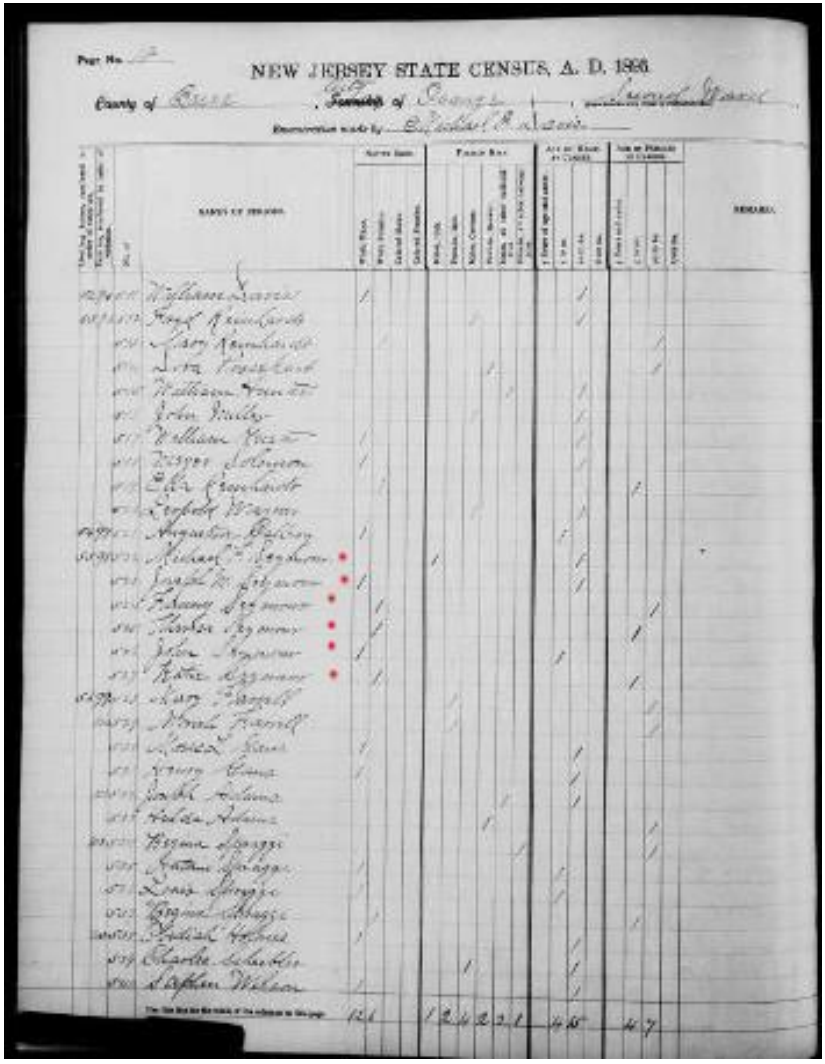
NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, A. D. 1895.

County of Essex; Township of City of Orange (Name here the town, village or other subdivision.) Fifth Ward.

Enumeration made by James P. Cummins Assessor

Dwelling houses, numbered in order of visitation.	Families, numbered in order of visitation.	No. of	NAMES OF PERSONS.	Native Born. White Males.	Native Born. White Females.	Native Born. Colored Males.	Native Born. Colored Females.	Foreign Born. Males, Irish.	Foreign Born. Females, Irish.	Foreign Born. Males, German.	Foreign Born. Females, German.	Foreign Born. Males, all other nationalities.	Foreign Born. Females, all other nationalities.	Age of Males by Classes. 5 Years of age and under.	Age of Males by Classes. 5 to 20.	Age of Males by Classes. 20 to 60.	Age of Males by Classes. Over 60.	Age of Females by Classes. 5 Years and under.	Age of Females by Classes. 5 to 20.	Age of Females by Classes. 20 to 60.	Age of Females by Classes. Over 60.	REMARKS.
105/134		691	Bridget Redden					1												1		
		692	Mamie Redden		1															1		
		693	John Redden	1											1							
		694	Frank Redden	1												1						
135		695	Henry B. Stoning	1												1						
		696	Sarah Stoning		1															1		
		697	Harry Stoning	1											1							
		698	Elmer Stoning	1											1							
106/136		699	James Fitzpatrick									1				1						
		700	Annie Fitzpatrick										1							1		
		701	Margaret Fitzpatrick		1															1		
•		702	John Seymour	1												1						
•		703	Mrs John Seymour		1															1		
•		704	Arthur Seymour	1														1				
•		705	Leggie Seymour		1													1				
• 107/137		706	Margaret Seymour		1															1		
		707	Philip E. Wilson	1												1						
		708	Flourne L. Wilson		1															1		
		709	Mary Smith		1																1	
		710	Henry Wilson									1				1						
		711	Bethany Wilson		1															1		
		712	Barbella Wilson		1													1				
		713	Frank Wilson	1												1						
		714	Alfred Wilson	1											1							
		715	Fannie Wilson		1													1				
		716	Charlie Wilson	1											1							
108/138		717	W. O. Downs	1												1						
		718	Mrs. Downs		1															1		
		719	Mrs. S. J. Boyd		1															1		
		720	H. H. Studdiford	1												1						
108/138		720	Use this line for the totals of the columns on this page.	13	13			1		2	1			5	9			1	1	1		

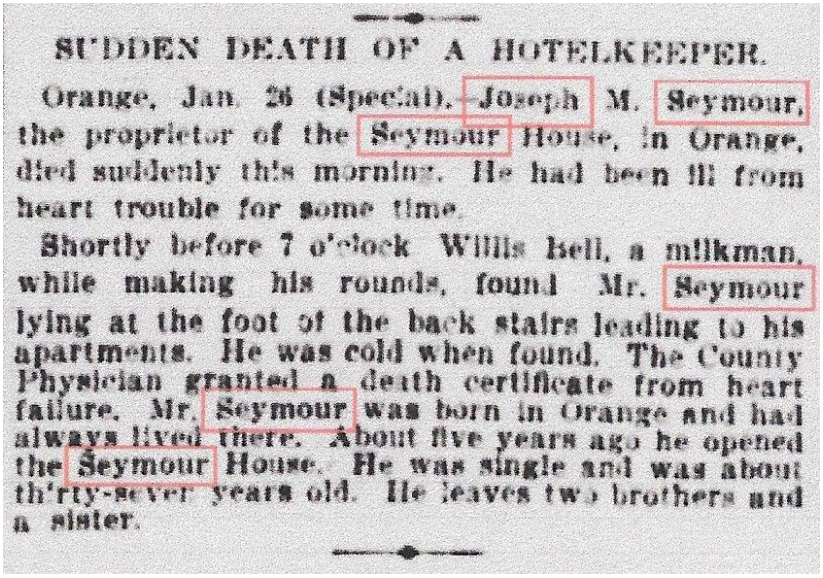
1895 New Jersey Census for John Seymour



NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, A. D. 1895

1895 New Jersey Census for Michael Seymour

Great-granduncle Joseph Seymours Death

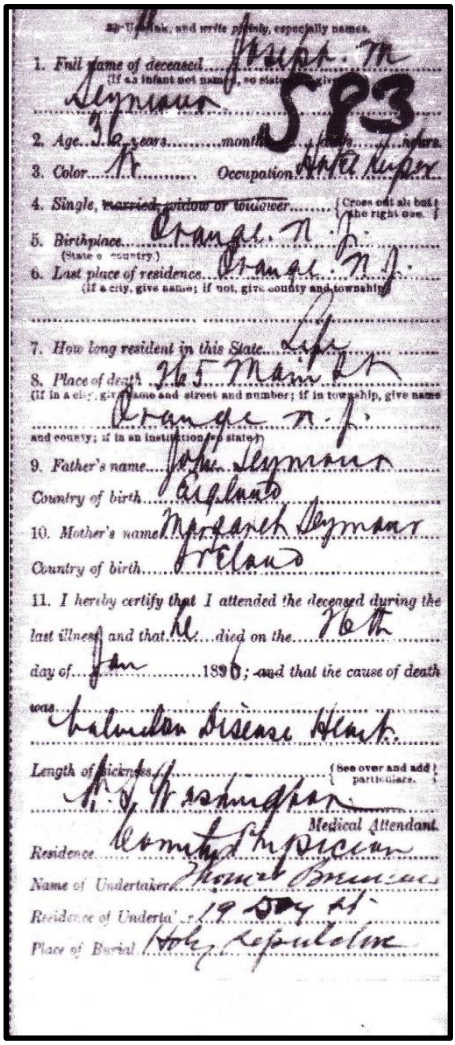


SUDDEN DEATH OF A HOTELKEEPER.

Orange, Jan. 26 (Special).—Joseph M. Seymour, the proprietor of the Seymour House, in Orange, died suddenly this morning. He had been ill from heart trouble for some time.

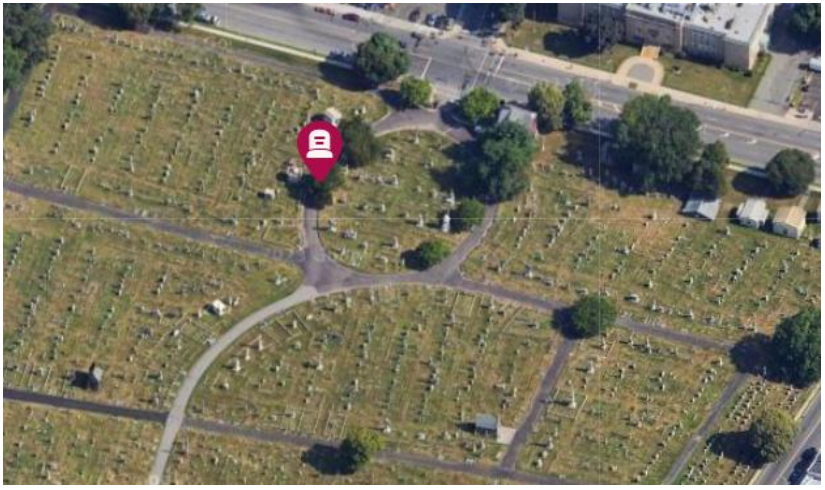
Shortly before 7 o'clock Willis Bell, a milkman, while making his rounds, found Mr. Seymour lying at the foot of the back stairs leading to his apartments. He was cold when found. The County Physician granted a death certificate from heart failure. Mr. Seymour was born in Orange and had always lived there. About five years ago he opened the Seymour House. He was single and was about thirty-seven years old. He leaves two brothers and a sister.

Joseph Seymour Death in New York Tribune



1. Full name of deceased Joseph M. Seymour
(If an infant not named, so state.)
2. Age 76 years ... months ... days ... hours.
3. Color W. Occupation Hotel Keeper
4. Single, married, widow or widower ... (Cross out all but the right one.)
5. Birthplace Orange, N. J.
(State or country.)
6. Last place of residence Orange, N. J.
(If a city, give name; if not, give county and township.)
7. How long resident in this State Life
8. Place of death 215 Main St
(If in a city, give name and street and number; if in township, give name and county; if in an institution, so state.)
Orange N. J.
9. Father's name John Seymour
Country of birth England
10. Mother's name Margaret Seymour
Country of birth Ireland
11. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased during the last illness and that he died on the 7th day of Jan 1896; and that the cause of death was Valvular Disease Heart.
Length of sickness ... (See over and add particulars.)
H. J. Washington
Medical Attendant.
Residence Orange N. J.
Name of Undertaker Thomas Brennan
Residence of Undertaker 19 Day St.
Place of Burial Holy Sepulchre

Joseph Seymours Death Certificate

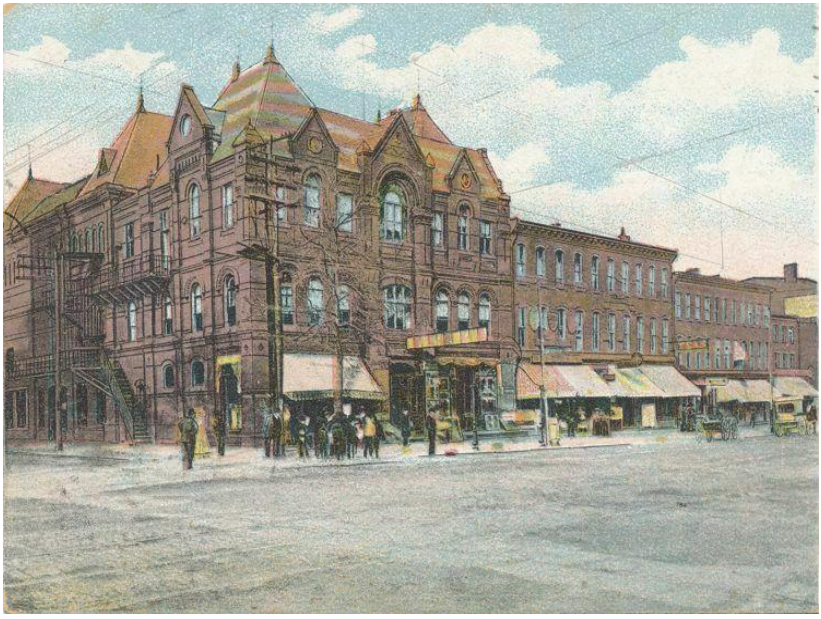


Joseph Seymours Grave at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange, New Jersey

Unlike other family members buried at St. Johns, Joseph was buried at the St. Rose of Lima plot inside the entrance to the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in East Orange as shown above.

Orange Park, Orange, New Jersey 1909

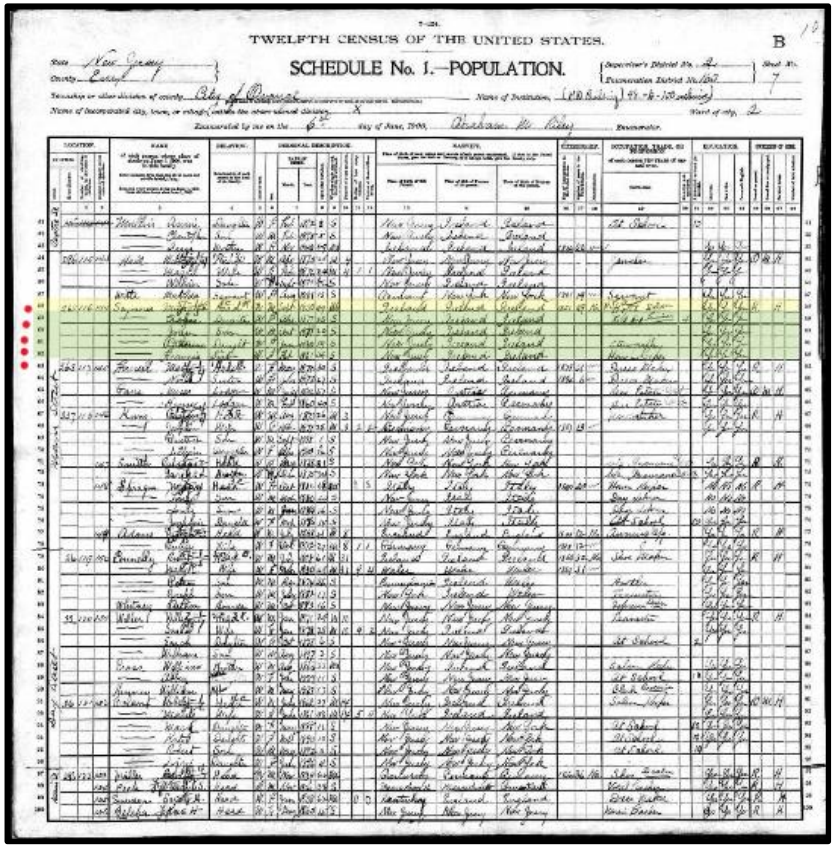
In 1900, a marshy swap was transformed into a 48 acre park and playground with a small man-made lake near the center. Orange Park was born.



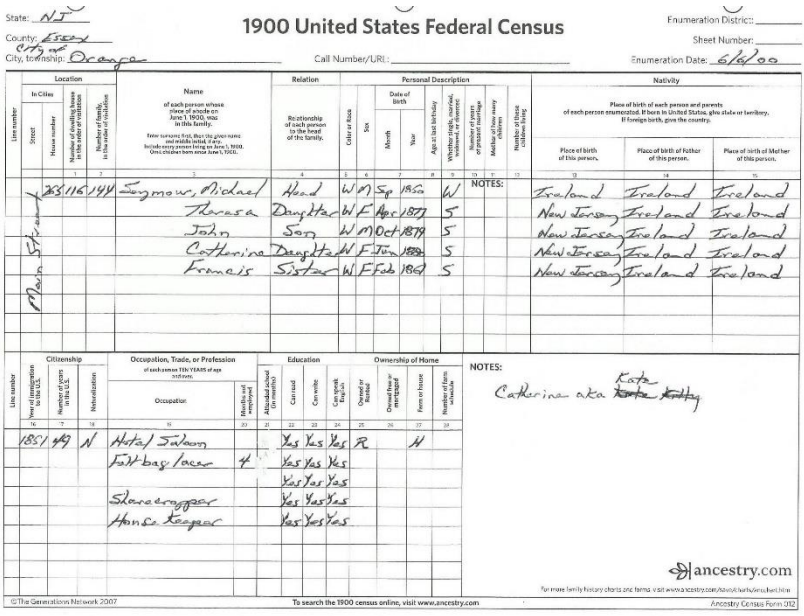
Music Hall at corner of Main & Day 1908

Michael F. Seymour 1890s

1900 Federal Census



1900 Federal Census for Michael Seymour Family



State: NJ
County: Essex
City, township: Orange

1900 United States Federal Census

Call Number/URI:

Enumeration District:
Sheet Number:
Enumeration Date: 6/6/00

Line number	Location: In Cities: Street	House number	Number of dwelling house in the order of visitation	Number of family in the order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	Relation: Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Personal Description: Color or Race	Sex	Date of birth: Month	Date of birth: Year	Age at last birthday	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years married	Mother of how many children	Number of these children living	Nativity: Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.
1	Main St.	263	116	144	Seymour, Michael	Head	W	M	Sep	1850	49	W				Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
2					Theresa	Daughter	W	F	Apr	1877	23	S				New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland
3					John	Son	W	M	Oct	1879	20	S				New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland
4					Catherine	Daughter	W	F	Jun	1884	15	S				New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland
5					Francis	Sister	W	F	Feb	1869	31	S				New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland

NOTES:

Line number	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the U.S.	Citizenship: Number of years in the U.S.	Citizenship: Naturalization	Occupation, Trade, or Profession of each person TEN YEARS of age and over. Occupation	Months not employed	Education: Attended school (in months)	Education: Can read	Education: Can write	Education: Can speak English	Ownership of Home: Owned or rented	Ownership of Home: Owned free or mortgaged	Ownership of Home: Farm or house	Number of farm schedule
1	1851	49	N	Hotel Saloon			Yes	Yes	Yes	R		H	
2				Junk bag lacer	4		Yes	Yes	Yes				
3							Yes	Yes	Yes				
4				Stone dragger			Yes	Yes	Yes				
5				Hon. Keeper			Yes	Yes	Yes				

NOTES:
Catherine aka Kate ~~Kate Kelly~~

ancestry.com
For more family history charts and forms visit www.ancestry.com/AncestryCharts/AncChart.htm
©The Generations Network 2007
To search the 1900 census online, visit www.ancestry.com
Ancestry Census Form 012

1900 Family Group Sheet for Michael Seymour

At the turn of the century, Michael resided on Main Street at "Seymour House" along with his children Theresa, John and Catherine, and his sister Francis (Fanny).

Below is an article about a trolley car accident the Seymours may have witnessed.

Submitted by Stu Beitler

TROLLEY ACCIDENT IN STORM.

MOTOR BURNS OUT AND FLAMES ENVELOPE CAR -- PASSENGERS INJURED.

Special to The New York Times.

Orange, N. J., Aug. 12. -- A serious accident took place

on Main Street this afternoon during the severe thunderstorm that broke about 2 o'clock. Trolley Car No. 319 of the North Jersey Street Railway Company had just passed Park Street, when there was a blinding flash, accompanied by an explosion, and the car was enveloped in flames. In the rush to escape five persons were injured.

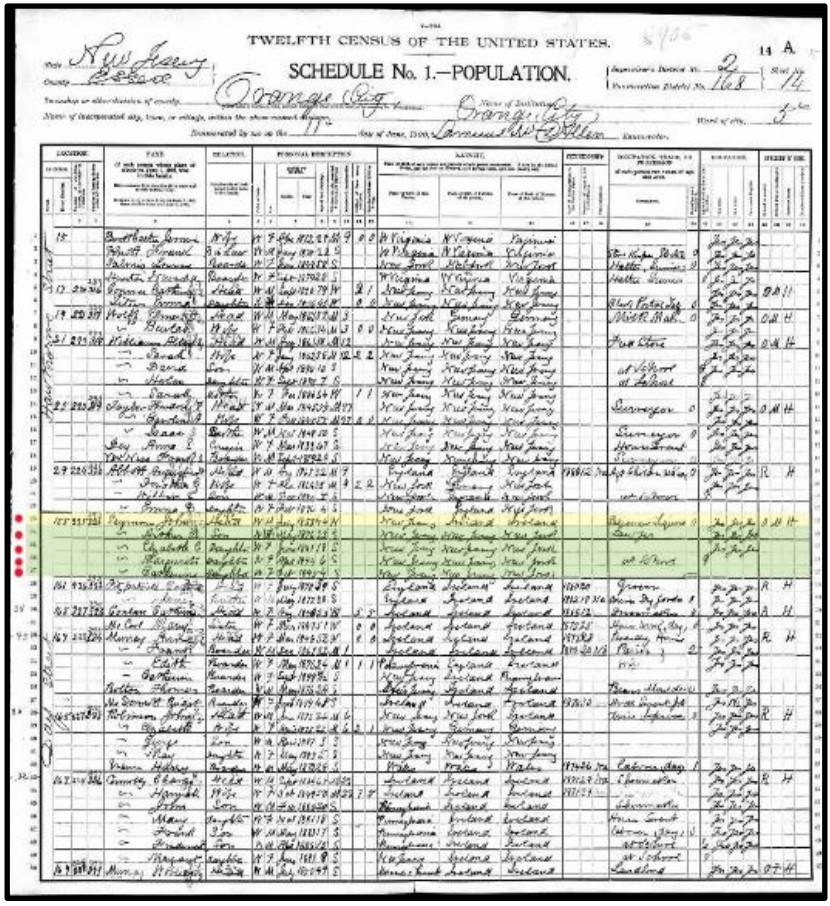
Those seriously hurt are MARY LOMBARDO, aged six years, of 84 Union Street, Orange, who received severe scalp wounds, and was injured about the body, and MRS. KOHLER of Newark, who was cut about the head and injured internally.

Hardly anybody in the car escaped injury of some kind. The motor and controller box of the car were burned out, and the line was blocked for some time.

The New York Times New York 1900-08-13

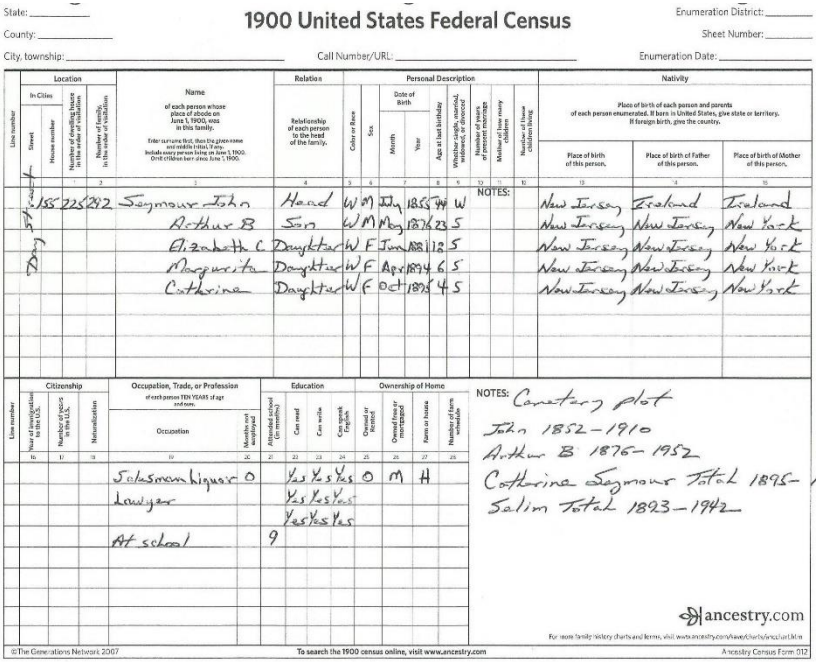
John J. Seymour 1890s

1900 Federal Census


TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

1900 Federal Census for John Seymour Family



State: _____ County: _____ City, township: _____

1900 United States Federal Census

Enumeration District: _____ Sheet Number: _____ Call Number/URL: _____ Enumeration Date: _____

Line number	Location: Street	Location: House number	Location: Number of family in the order of visitation	Location: Number of family in the order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	Relation: Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Personal Description: Color or Race	Sex	Date of Birth: Month	Date of Birth: Year	Age at last birthday	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years of present marriage	Mother of how many children	Number of these children living	Nativity: Place of birth of this person.	Nativity: Place of birth of Father of this person.	Nativity: Place of birth of Mother of this person.
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	5th	155	225	242	Seymour John	Head	W	M	July	1855	44	W				New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland
					Arthur B	Son	W	M	May	1876	23	S				New Jersey	New Jersey	New York
	Day				Elizabeth C	Daughter	W	F	Jun	1881	18	S				New Jersey	New Jersey	New York
					Marguerite	Daughter	W	F	Apr	1894	6	S				New Jersey	New Jersey	New York
					Catherine	Daughter	W	F	Oct	1895	4	S				New Jersey	New Jersey	New York

NOTES:

Line number	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the U.S.	Citizenship: Number of years in the U.S.	Citizenship: Naturalization	Occupation, Trade, or Profession of each person TEN YEARS of age and over. Occupation	Occupation: Months not employed	Education: Attended school (in months)	Education: Can read	Education: Can write	Education: Can speak English	Ownership of Home: Owned or Rented	Ownership of Home: Owned free or mortgaged	Ownership of Home: Farm or house	Ownership of Home: Number of farms owned
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Salesman liquor	0		Yes	Yes	Yes	O	M	H	
				Lawyer			Yes	Yes	Yes				
				At school		9							

NOTES: Cemetery plot
John 1852–1910
Arthur B 1876–1952
Catherine Seymour Total 1895–
Salim Total 1893–1942

ancestry.com
For more family history charts and forms, visit www.ancestry.com/wiyfw/charts/ancchart.htm
©The Generations Network 2007 To search the 1900 census online, visit www.ancestry.com Ancestry Census Form 012

1900 Family Group Sheet for John Seymour

Marguerite and Catherine were the two surviving offspring from John's marriage to Ellen (Nelle) Roach in 1893. Nelle died in 1898, so she was not alive when this census was taken.

John Loved His Dog, Tricks

The next part begins with the start of the new century...

Seymours in Orange, New Jersey 1900-1952

Main Street Orange, New Jersey - 1900

By 1900, John Seymour had moved to 155 North Day Street along with his children Arthur, Elizabeth, Marguerite and Catherine. Below is a photo of the residence during recent years.

155 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey

John Seymour, President of Common Council - 1901

In 1901, John was elected President of the Common Council by a 732 vote majority. He had served as an Alderman for over ten years. To assist his brother Michael, owner of the "Seymour House" saloon hotel, he also sold wine to stores and taverns. At the turn of the century, the Seymours had become known as "The First Family of Orange," indicative of the phenomenal social advances and political strengths brought to America by the Irish.

However, John's position was not without controversy. A New York Times headline on August 26, 1901 read: "Seeks to Oust John Seymour; Lighting Company's Action Against Orange Council's President." Perhaps John was fighting to keep the gas lamps. Another New York Times headline on February 15, 1904 read: "Seek to Oust Seymour; Attorney General Starts Proceedings Against President of Orange Common Council."

Below is an article about a train collision the Seymours may have witnessed. Mrs. Dowd lived at 136 Day Street where my grandparents lived a few years later.

Submitted by Stu Beitler

ORANGE, NJ TRAINS COLLIDE LEAVING STATION, OCT 1903, 20 HURT

LOCOMOTIVE HEADLIGHT THRUSTS THROUGH DOOR OF CAR AHEAD.

Lackawanna Engine That Struck Carload of School Children at Newark Makes Bad Wreck at Orange.

Special to The New York Times

Orange, N. J., Oct. 26 -- Several people were injured -- none dangerously, however, as by a miracle -- in a railroad

smashup that occurred in the Orange station of the Lackawanna Railroad this morning at 8:30 o'clock just as the rush of commuters to the metropolis was at its height. The swift Passaic and Delaware Express crashed into the Hackettstown local train as it was moving out of the station. The rear train was the same that hit the trolley car full of school children at the Clifton Avenue crossing in Newark last February.

Those injured were:

STUPP, C. J., 169 High Street, Orange, hip injured.

DOWD, MRS. HENRY M., 136 Day Street, Orange, face and scalp badly lacerated.

FELL, LAURENCE T., 55 Cleveland Street, Orange, a son of the late Mayor

LAURENCE FELL of Orange, severe injuries to hip and severe contusions.

SQUIRE, L. B., JR., Lenox Road, South Orange, cut above head by glass.

HINE, COL. EDWIN W., Orange, of the Elizabeth and Westfield Traction Company, hand lacerated and cut.

PARFF, MARY, of Main Street, Orange, right knee injured.

BURKE, ALICE, of Mount Hope, employed in Newark, shock and severe bruises, Orange Memorial Hospital.

HART, MAY, of West Orange, severe bruises and shock, Memorial Hospital.

JONES, ADELE, Commerce Street, Orange, bruises and shock.

WUTHRICH, FRITZ, South Jefferson Street, Orange, bruises.

WALL, W. HOLLISTER, Argyle Avenue, Orange, left leg injured, ankle badly twisted.

McCARTHY, CATHARINE, West Orange, badly bruised and suffered shock.

ROBERTS, WILLIAM H., of the firm of J. Marshall & Ball, severely bruised about the body.

Many who were injured went away, refusing to give their names. The total number of those who suffered more or less severely from the crash will not fall short of twenty. Nearly all of the injured were first taken to the hospital, but most of them insisted upon being taken to their homes for treatment.

The first warning of the impending danger was given by a young man who boarded the rear platform of the local train, threw open the door and shouted:

"For God's sake pull that bell rope: the express is right on top of us."

The passengers made a wild rush for the doors, but before they got there the engine had crashed into the rear car and all were thrown from their feet. The rear car was thrown fully five feet in the air and the rear truck was sent spinning away by the impact. The platform curled up like a piece of paper and the headlight of the locomotive was hurled through the door.

The front of the big locomotive caved in like an egg shell and large chunks of heavy oak wood from the car were driven into the cracks. The pilot, brakes, and all projecting pieces of the locomotive were wrenched and the pilot telescoped the cab of the locomotive, and the first car demolished the rear of the tender of the locomotive.

"I was running cautiously and had my train well in hand," said MARSHALL CASSIDY, the express train engineer, "for I knew the Hackettstown train was ahead of me. Signals along the line gave me a clear road; I expected, though, to find the signal in the block in which the accident occurred set against me. It was not, and I therefore ran right on until I saw the other train ahead of me around the curve. I clapped on the emergency brakes and reduced the headway of the train a good deal before the smash came."

MR. FELL, one of the most seriously injured, is a member of the Essex County Grand Jury, and he said soon after the accident that he would cause a most rigorous inquiry to be made into the matter with a view of placing the responsibility.

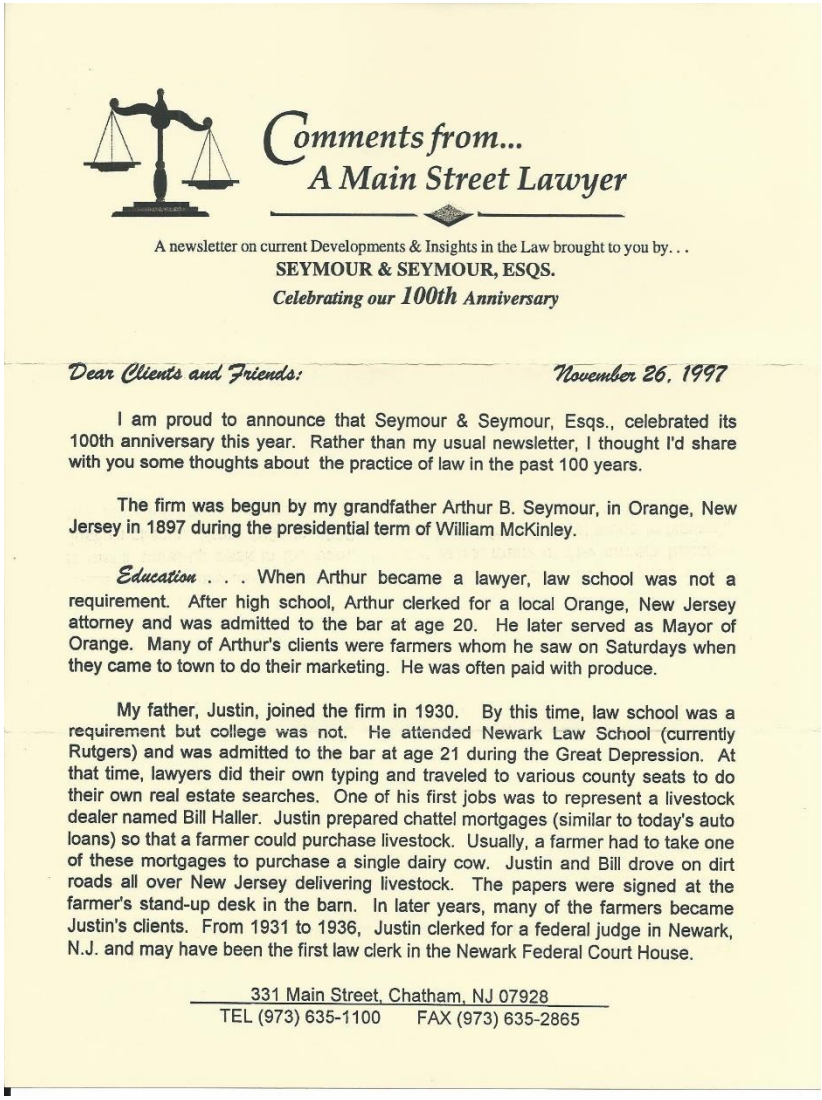
The New York Times New York 1903-10-26

A Budding Politician

Arthur B. Seymour

My grandfather, Arthur, graduated from Orange High School, studied law under Nathan C. Horton & Johnson & German of Newark and was admitted to the New Jersey bar in 1897. Below is

a letter sent to clients and friends on the 100th anniversary of the firm.



Comments from...
A Main Street Lawyer

A newsletter on current Developments & Insights in the Law brought to you by...
SEYMOUR & SEYMOUR, ESQS.
Celebrating our 100th Anniversary

Dear Clients and Friends: *November 26, 1997*

I am proud to announce that Seymour & Seymour, Esqs., celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Rather than my usual newsletter, I thought I'd share with you some thoughts about the practice of law in the past 100 years.

The firm was begun by my grandfather Arthur B. Seymour, in Orange, New Jersey in 1897 during the presidential term of William McKinley.

Education . . . When Arthur became a lawyer, law school was not a requirement. After high school, Arthur clerked for a local Orange, New Jersey attorney and was admitted to the bar at age 20. He later served as Mayor of Orange. Many of Arthur's clients were farmers whom he saw on Saturdays when they came to town to do their marketing. He was often paid with produce.

My father, Justin, joined the firm in 1930. By this time, law school was a requirement but college was not. He attended Newark Law School (currently Rutgers) and was admitted to the bar at age 21 during the Great Depression. At that time, lawyers did their own typing and traveled to various county seats to do their own real estate searches. One of his first jobs was to represent a livestock dealer named Bill Haller. Justin prepared chattel mortgages (similar to today's auto loans) so that a farmer could purchase livestock. Usually, a farmer had to take one of these mortgages to purchase a single dairy cow. Justin and Bill drove on dirt roads all over New Jersey delivering livestock. The papers were signed at the farmer's stand-up desk in the barn. In later years, many of the farmers became Justin's clients. From 1931 to 1936, Justin clerked for a federal judge in Newark, N.J. and may have been the first law clerk in the Newark Federal Court House.

331 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928
TEL (973) 635-1100 FAX (973) 635-2865

I became the third generation family lawyer in 1970. I attended Seton Hall University and Seton Hall Law School. The nice part about my practice is that I handle my cases from beginning to end -- interview, research, strategy, court appearances, through final settlement -- as opposed to larger firms where several lawyers may work on different aspects of a case.

The Bar Exam . . . In 1930, part of the bar exam was oral -- a candidate would be given a legal maxim in Latin and be required to explain its meaning. In 1970, the bar exam took 2-1/2 days and was all essay questions. In 1970, after four years of college and three years of law school, only about sixty percent of candidates passed the bar exam. Today, the exam is part multiple choice and part essay -- most candidates pass.

Specialization . . . The practice of law has somewhat paralleled the practice of medicine. The old time family practitioner has been replaced by many specialists. Opportunities today include bankruptcy, business litigation, corporate, criminal defense, environmental, family law, first amendment law, health care, immigration, intellectual property, labor and employment, personal injury litigation, public utility, real estate, tax, and workers' compensation law.

Seymour & Seymour is a small town, main street law practice with emphasis on the need of families and small businesses, including Wills, Estate Administration, Adoption, Residential and Commercial Real Estate, Family Law, Corporations, Business Agreements, and related matters.

One of the firm's clients was Orange Savings Bank who moved its main office to Madison during the 1970's and at that time the law firm moved to Chatham. Shortly thereafter the firm purchased an 1876 Victorian era house which we recently renovated, and in conjunction with Chatham Borough's 100th anniversary of its incorporation, at a ceremony at Town Hall, Mark Seymour was presented with the Chatham Borough Historical Preservation Commission's Flag Award for his preservation and restoration of this historic building.

We welcome your visits and telephone inquiries.

* * * * * * * * *

Until next time, may you have a bountiful Thanksgiving, a happy holiday and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Mark O. Seymour

MARK O. SEYMOUR

Law Offices

ARTHUR B. SEYMOUR,

National Bank Building,

252 MAIN STREET, ORANGE, N. J.

Telephone Connection.

1908 City Directory

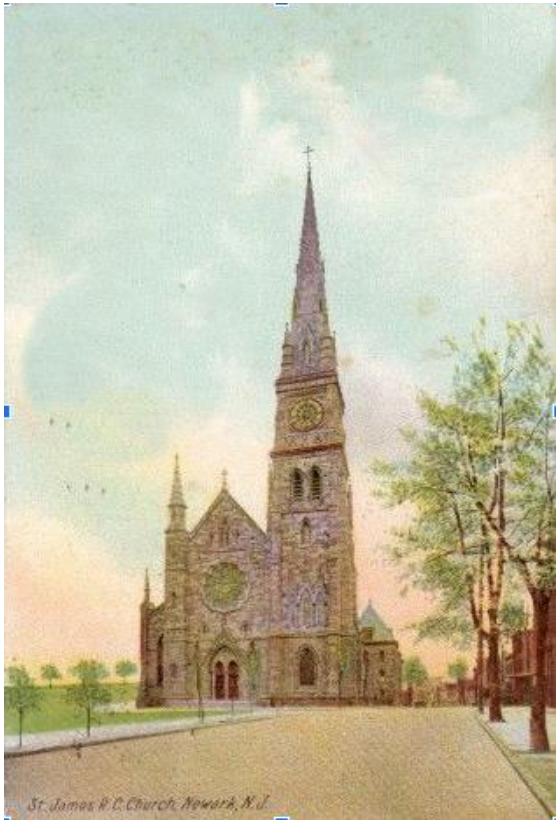
In 1897, Arthur started his law practice on Main Street. He later appeared in the 1908 City Directory as shown above.

Grandpa meets Grandma

I'm not sure how grandpa and grandma first met. As an up and coming lawyer, he probably made regular visits to the Essex County courthouse in Newark. He likely traveled to Newark by trolley or train. Grandma's family resided in the Down Neck section of Newark, where her father, Napoleon, worked as a barber.

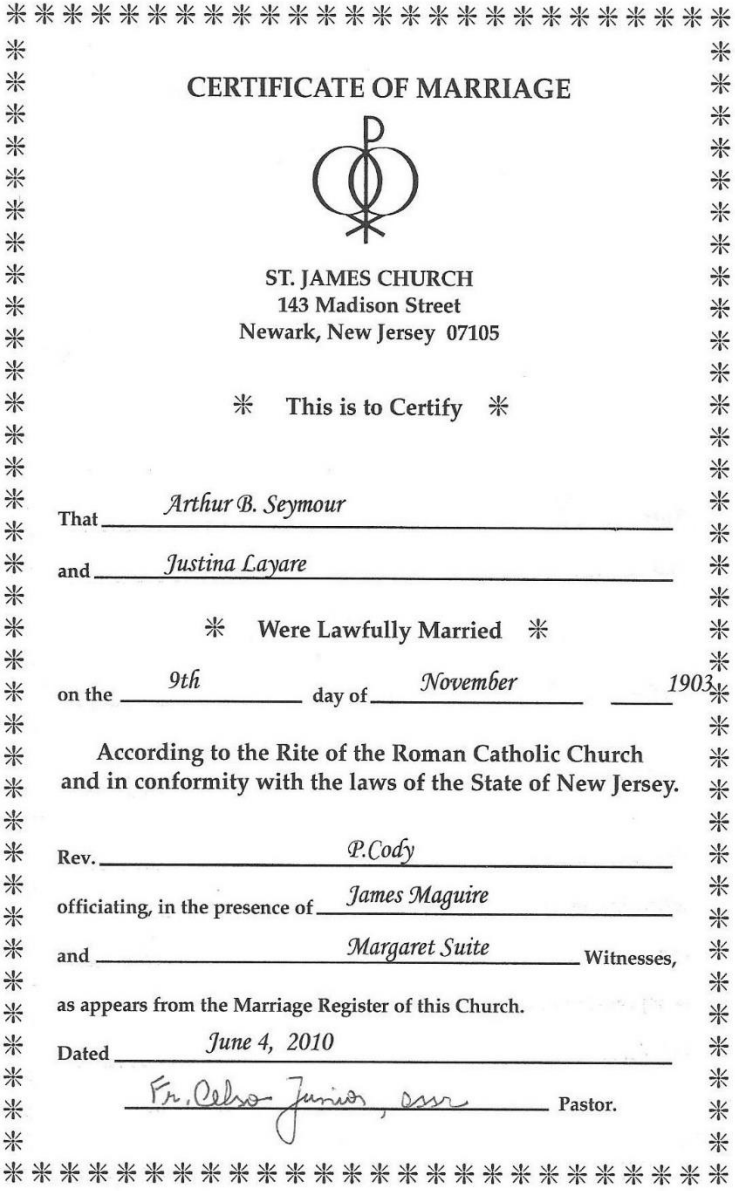
147 New Jersey Railroad Avenue - 2010

In 1903, grandma lived at her father's barber shop home alongside the railroad tracks at 147 New Jersey Railroad Avenue in Newark. Did grandpa stop there for a haircut one day? Did he become attracted to grandma while sitting in the barber chair? Soon after, they decided to tie the knot. Above is a photo of 1he front door to 147 New Jersey Railroad Avenue taken during a research trip in 2010.



St. James Roman Catholic Church Newark

On 9 November 1903, he married Justina Augusta Layare at St. James Catholic Church at 143 Madison Street in Newark.



CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

ST. JAMES CHURCH
143 Madison Street
Newark, New Jersey 07105

This is to Certify

That *Arthur B. Seymour*

and *Justina Layare*

Were Lawfully Married

on the *9th* day of *November* *1903*

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church
and in conformity with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

Rev. *P. Cody*

officiating, in the presence of *James Maguire*

and *Margaret Suite* Witnesses,

as appears from the Marriage Register of this Church.

Dated *June 4, 2010*

Fr. Celso Junior, ssp Pastor.

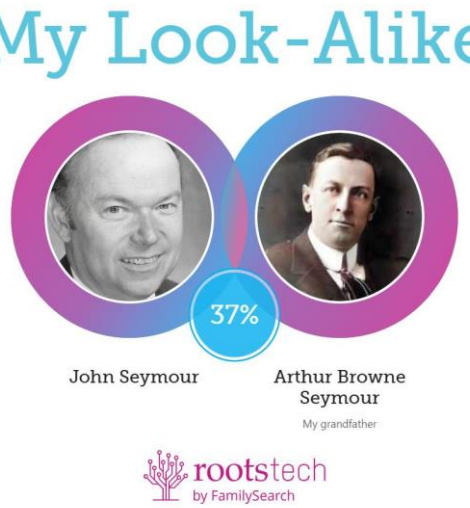
Arthur Seymour & Justina Layare Marriage Certificate

Justina Augusta Layare Seymour 1903

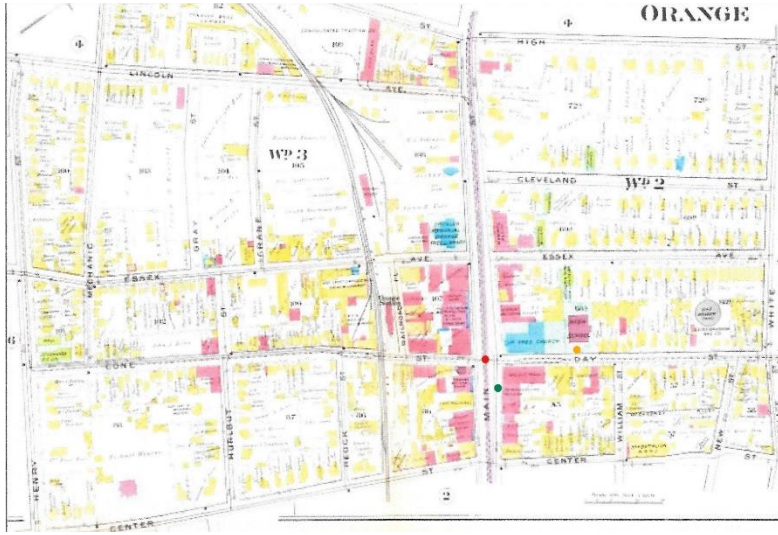
Justina was born in San Demetrio, Cosenza, Italy on 11 October 1883 and was in the Arbëreshë (Italo-Albanian) ethnic group. At the age of two, she emigrated to New York from Naples on SS Alexandria. She was accompanied by her mother, Roseangela, uncle Angelo and older sister Marianna. Her family resided in the Down Neck section of Newark, where her father, Napoleon, worked as a barber. By the 1890s, her surname had changed from Lepera to Layare. She believed she was born in New Jersey.

Arthur Browne Seymour, Mayor of Orange 1908-1912

In 1906, Arthur was elected to a two-year term as an alderman from the Fifth Ward. In 1908, he was elected to a two-year term as Mayor and reelected in 1910 for a second two-year term. He became known as "Boy Mayor," taking office at age 32.



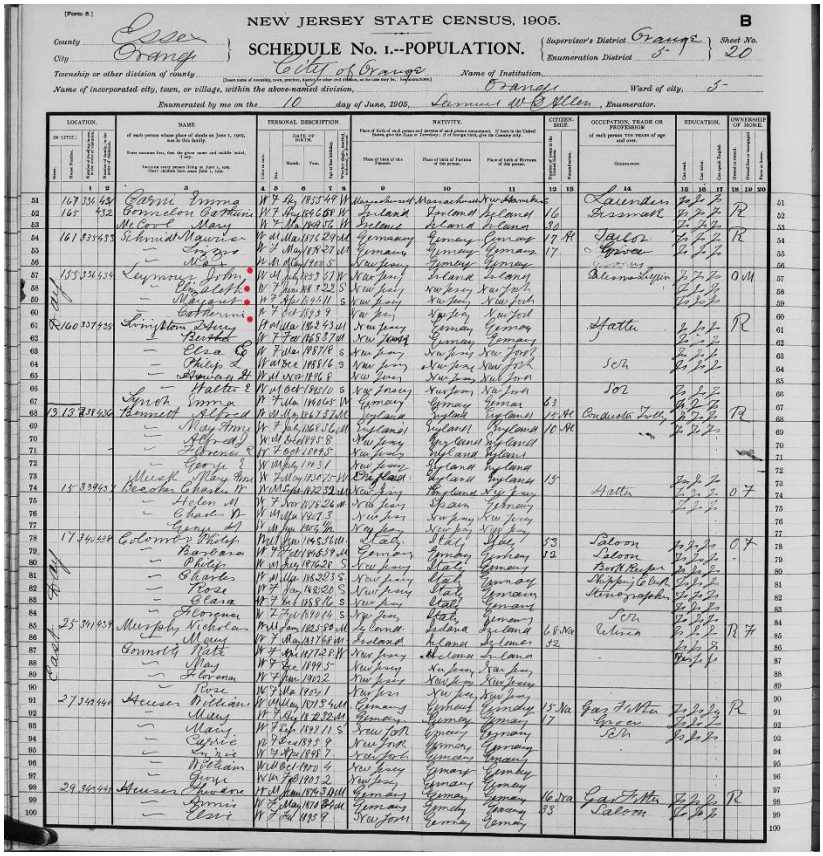
Comparing photos on my Family Search Tree at the RootsTech event in 2024, Artificial intelligence said I looked like my grandfather.



Map of Orange 1904

The above map, from the Mueller Atlas of Essex County, shows the center of Orange in 1904. The intersection of Main and Day is marked by the red dot. "Seymour House" is marked in green and the high school is marked in orange.

1905 New Jersey Census



NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, 1905. B

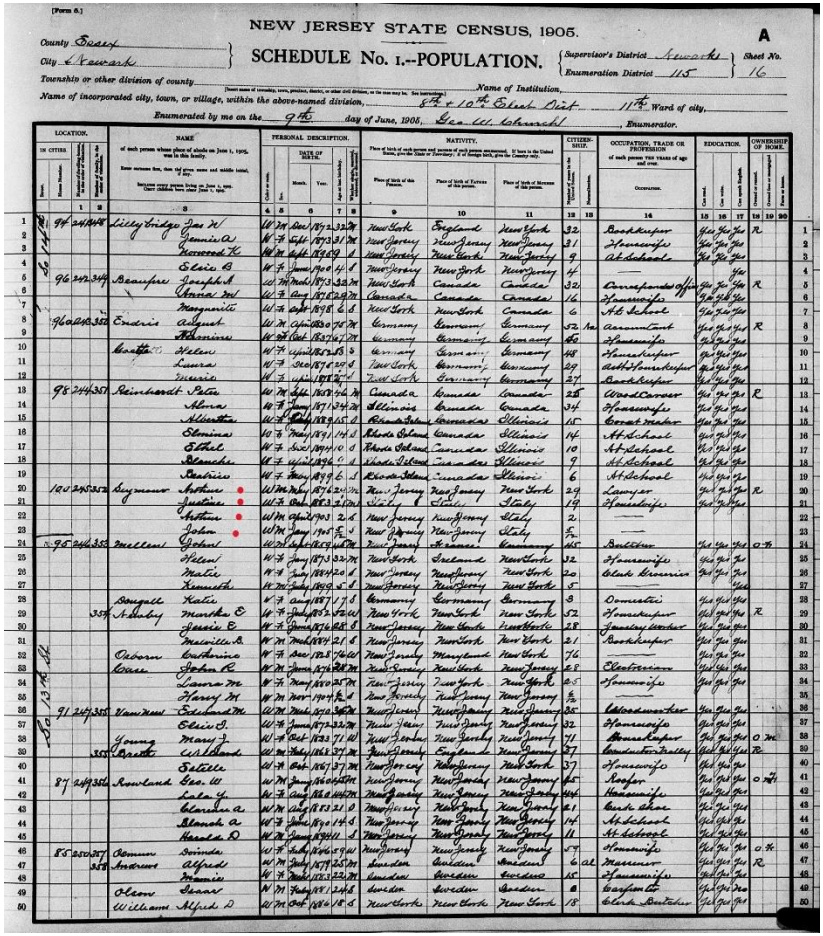
County Essex
City Orange
SCHEDULE No. 1.--POPULATION.
Supervisor's District Orange 5
Enumeration District 20
Sheet No.

Township or other division of county
Name of Institution
City of Orange
Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Orange Ward of city, 5
Enumerated by me on the 10 day of June, 1905. Samuel W. Allen, Enumerator.

	LOCATION.	NAME	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY.	CITIZEN-SHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION.	OWNERSHIP OF HOME.
	1 2	3	4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11	12 13	14	15 16 17	18 19 20
51	167 334 438	Seymour Emma	W F Ap 1855 49 W	Massachusetts Massachusetts New Hampshire		Laundress	Yes Yes Yes	
52	165 432	Donnelon Catherine	W F Aug 1866 38 W	Ireland Ireland Ireland	16	Dressmaker	Yes Yes Yes	R
53		Mc Cool Mary	W F Jly 1869 35 W	Ireland Ireland Ireland	30		Yes Yes Yes	
54	161 334 433	Schmidt Maurice	W M Mar 1876 29 M	Germany Germany Germany	17 M	Tailor	Yes Yes Yes	R
55		— Fanny	W F May 1878 27 M	Germany Germany Germany	17	Cloak Maker	Yes Yes Yes	
56		— Mary	W F Mar 1900 5 S	New Jersey Germany Germany				
57	155 334 439	Seymour John	W M July 1859 45 W	New Jersey Ireland Ireland		Salesman Liquors	Yes Yes Yes	O M
58		— Elizabeth	W F Jun 1881 23 S	New Jersey New Jersey New York			Yes Yes Yes	
59		— Margaret	W F Apr 1899 11 S	New Jersey New Jersey New York			Yes Yes Yes	
60		Cotterill	W F Oct 1859 9	New Jersey New York New York				
61	160 337 435	Irving Mary	W F Mar 1862 43 M	New Jersey Germany Germany		Hatter	Yes Yes Yes	R
62		— Bertha	W F Feb 1888 17 M	New Jersey Germany Germany			Yes Yes Yes	
63		— Eliza G	W F Mar 1887 18 S	New Jersey New Jersey New York			Yes Yes Yes	
64		— Philip J	W M Dec 1891 15 S	New Jersey New Jersey New York		Sch	Yes Yes Yes	
65		— Dorothy H	W F Mar 1896 8	New Jersey New Jersey New York			Yes Yes Yes	
66		— Walter E	W M Oct 1898 6 S	New Jersey New York New York		Sch	Yes Yes Yes	
67		Smith Emma	W F Jly 1866 38 W	Germany Germany Germany	63		Yes Yes Yes	
68	13 13 334 436	Bennett Alfred	W M May 1867 37 M	England England England	15 M	Conductor Tally	Yes Yes Yes	R
69		— Mary Amy	W F Feb 1868 37 M	England England England	16 M		Yes Yes Yes	
70		— Alfred J	W M Feb 1898 8	New Jersey England England			Yes Yes Yes	
71		— Florence E	W F Sept 1899 5	New Jersey England England				
72		— George E	W M Feb 1901 4	New Jersey England England				
73		Mack Mary Ann	W F July 1835 69 W	England England England	15		Yes Yes Yes	
74	15 334 437	Meeker Charles W	W M Sept 1832 72 M	New Jersey England New Jersey		Hatter	Yes Yes Yes	O
75		— Helen M	W F Nov 1870 24 M	New Jersey Germany Germany			Yes Yes Yes	
76		— Chas N	W M Mar 1901 4	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey				
77		— Geo M	W M Jun 1903 2	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey				
78	17 334 438	Colombo Philip	Mulatto M Jun 1865 39 M	Italy Italy Italy	53	Saloon	Yes Yes Yes	O
79		— Barbara	W F Sept 1868 39 M	Germany Germany Germany	32	Saloon	Yes Yes Yes	
80		— Philip	W M Dec 1896 38 S	New Jersey Italy Germany		Book Keeper	Yes Yes Yes	
81		— Charles	W M Mar 1898 23 S	New Jersey Italy Germany		Shipping Clerk	Yes Yes Yes	
82		— Rose	W F Jun 1898 20 S	New Jersey Italy Germany		Stenographer	Yes Yes Yes	
83		— Clara	W F Jul 1898 16 S	New Jersey Italy Germany			Yes Yes Yes	
84		— Georgina	W F Sept 1900 4 S	New Jersey Italy Germany		Sch	Yes Yes Yes	
85	25 334 439	Murphy Nicholas	W M Jan 1858 48 M	Ireland Ireland Ireland	6 Na	Clerk	Yes Yes Yes	R H
86		— Mary	W F Mar 1857 48 M	Ireland Ireland Ireland	32		Yes Yes Yes	
87		Gormely Kate	W F Apr 1872 28 W	New Jersey Ireland Ireland			Yes Yes Yes	
88		— May	W F Dec 1899 5	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey				
89		— Florence	W F Jun 1902 2	New York New York New York				
90		— Rose	W F Mar 1903 1	New York New Jersey New Jersey				
91	27 334 440	Heuser William	W M Mar 1874 31 M	Germany Germany Germany	15 Na	Gas Fitter	Yes Yes Yes	R
92		— Mary	W F July 1872 32 M	Germany Germany Germany	17	Grocery Store	Yes Yes Yes	
93		— Mary	W F Sept 1899 10 S	New York Germany Germany			Yes Yes Yes	
94		— Cyril	W M Dec 1898 8	New York Germany Germany			Yes Yes Yes	
95		— Grace	W F Mar 1898 7	New York Germany Germany			Yes Yes Yes	
96		— William	W M Oct 1900 4	New York Germany Germany				
97		— Gertrude	W F Feb 1903 2	New Jersey Germany Germany				
98	29 334 441	Heuser Theodore	W M Mar 1849 30 M	Germany Germany Germany	16 Na	Gas Fitter	Yes Yes Yes	R
99		— Annie	W F Mar 1874 26 M	Germany Germany Germany	33	Saloon	Yes Yes Yes	
100		— Carl	W M Feb 1899 6	New Jersey Germany Germany			Yes Yes Yes	

1905 New Jersey Census for John Seymour

John's family is marked in red. He was now enumerated as a liquor salesman.



[Form 6.]

NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, 1905.

A

County Essex

City Newark

SCHEDULE No. 1.--POPULATION.

Supervisor's District Newark

Enumeration District 115

Sheet No. 16

Township or other division of county

Name of Institution

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, 8th & 10th Block Dist 11th Ward of city,

Enumerated by me on the 9th day of June, 1905. Geo. W. Schwartz, Enumerator.

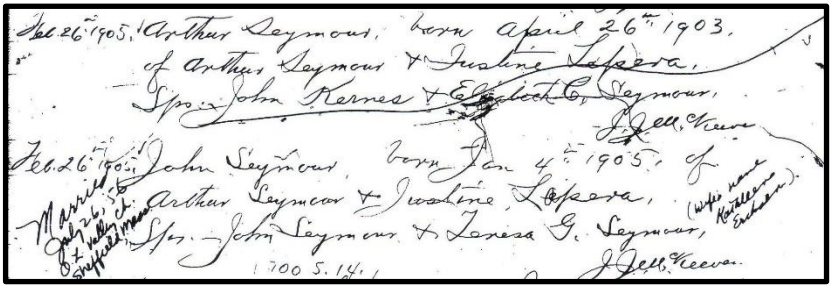
	LOCATION. IN CITIES. Street.	House Number.	Number of dwelling house in the order of visitation.	Number of family in the order of visitation.	NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1905, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1905. Omit children born since June 1, 1905.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION. Color or race.	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH. Month.	Year.	Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, give age in months.	NATIVITY. Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.	CITIZENSHIP. Number of years in the United States.	Naturalized.	OCCUPATION, TRADE OR PROFESSION of each person 10 years of age and over. Occupation.	EDUCATION. Can read.	Can write.	Can speak English.	OWNERSHIP OF HOME. Owned or hired.	Owned free or mortgaged.	Farm or farm.	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
1		94	241	348	Lilley Bridge Jos W	W	M	Dec	1872	32	New York	England	New York	32		Bookkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			1
2					Jennie A	W	F	Feb	1873	31	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	31		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				2
3					Norwood K	W	M	Apl	1899	6	New Jersey	New York	New Jersey	9		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				3
4					Elsie B	W	F	June	1900	4	New Jersey	New York	New Jersey	4					Yes				4
5		96	242	349	Beaupre Joseph A	W	M	Mch	1873	32	New York	Canada	Canada	32		Conveyance Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			5
6					Anna M	W	F	Aug	1878	26	Canada	Canada	Canada	16		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				6
7					Marguerite	W	F	Apl	1898	7	New York	New York	Canada	6		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				7
8		96a	243	350	Endris Albert	W	M	Apl	1880	25	Germany	Germany	Germany	6		Accountant	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			8
9					Antonina	W	F	Oct	1882	22	Germany	Germany	Germany	20		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				9
10					Beatte Helen	W	F	Apl	1882	23	Germany	Germany	Germany	18		Saleslady	Yes	Yes	Yes				10
11					Laura	W	F	Dec	1876	29	New York	Germany	Germany	29		Saleslady	Yes	Yes	Yes				11
12					Minnie	W	F	Apl	1898	7	New York	Germany	Germany	27		Bookkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes				12
13		98	244	351	Reinhardt Peter	W	M	Feb	1868	37	Canada	Canada	Canada	25		Wood Carver	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			13
14					Alma	W	F	Jany	1877	28	Illinois	Canada	Canada	34		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				14
15					Albertta	W	F	Feb	1899	6	Rhode Island	Canada	Illinois	16		Corset Maker	Yes	Yes	Yes				15
16					Elmina	W	F	May	1891	14	Rhode Island	Canada	Illinois	14		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				16
17					Ethel	W	F	July	1894	10	Rhode Island	Canada	Illinois	10		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				17
18					Blanche	W	F	Apl	1896	9	Rhode Island	Canada	Illinois	9		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				18
19					Beatrice	W	F	May	1899	6	Rhode Island	Canada	Illinois	6		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				19
20		100	245	352	Seymour Arthur	W	M	May	1876	29	New Jersey	New Jersey	New York	29		Lawyer	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			20
21					Justine	W	F	Oct	1883	21	Italy	Italy	Italy	19		Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes				21
22					Arthur	W	M	Oct	1903	2	New Jersey	New Jersey	Italy	2									22
23					John	W	M	Jany	1905	5	New Jersey	New Jersey	Italy	5									23
24		96	246	353	Mellem Peter	W	M	Sept	1869	29	New Jersey	Germany	Germany	18		Butcher	Yes	Yes	Yes	O	R		24
25					Helen	W	F	Jany	1873	32	New York	Ireland	New York	32		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				25
26					Matie	W	F	July	1894	10	New Jersey	New Jersey	New York	10		Work Grocries	Yes	Yes	Yes				26
27					Kenneth	W	M	July	1899	5	New Jersey	New Jersey	New York	5					Yes				27
28					Seugalt Katie	W	F	Aug	1871	33	Germany	Germany	Germany	8		Domestic	Yes	Yes	Yes				28
29			357		Ruby Martha E	W	F	Sept	1852	52	New York	New York	New York	52		Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			29
30					Jessie E	W	F	June	1876	28	New Jersey	New York	Pennsylvania	28		Jewelry Worker	Yes	Yes	Yes				30
31					Melville B	W	M	Mch	1881	24	New Jersey	New York	New York	24		Bookkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes				31
32				Osborn	Catherine	W	F	Dec	1858	46	New Jersey	Maryland	New York	46			Yes	Yes	Yes				32
33				Kraa	John R	W	M	June	1874	30	New Jersey	New York	New Jersey	28		Electrician	Yes	Yes	Yes				33
34					Laura M	W	F	May	1880	25	New Jersey	New York	New York	25		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				34
35					Harry M	W	M	Nov	1904	8/12	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	8/12									35
36					Eckhardt M	W	M	Mch	1870	35	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	35		Woodworker	Yes	Yes	Yes				36
37		91	247	355	Van Nest Ellis D	W	F	June	1872	32	New York	New Jersey	New Jersey	32		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				37
38					Young Mary J	W	F	Oct	1833	71	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	71		Home Keeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	O	M		38
39			358		Beatte Wilhelmina	W	F	May	1863	37	New Jersey	England	New Jersey	27		Landlord Valley	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			39
40					Estelle	W	F	Oct	1867	37	New Jersey	New Jersey	New York	37		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				40
41		87	249	356	Rowland Geo W	W	M	June	1868	36	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	36		Roofer	Yes	Yes	Yes	O	R		41
42					Lola G	W	F	Aug	1868	36	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	36		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				42
43					Blanche A	W	F	Apl	1893	12	New Jersey	New York	New Jersey	12		Cash Girl	Yes	Yes	Yes				43
44					Blanch A	W	F	June	1894	10	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	10		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				44
45					Harold D	W	M	June	1894	10	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	10		At School	Yes	Yes	Yes				45
46		85	250	357	Clemon Sonda	W	F	Feb	1866	39	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	39		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes	O	M		46
47			358		Andrews Alfred	W	M	July	1877	25	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	6	at	Mariner	Yes	Yes	Yes	R			47
48					Minnie	W	F	Mch	1878	27	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	15		Housewife	Yes	Yes	Yes				48
49				Olson	Oscar	W	M	Feb	1878	27	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	8		Baggageman	Yes	Yes	Yes				49
50				Williams	Alfred D	W	M	Oct	1884	20	New York	New York	New York	18		Clerk Butcher	Yes	Yes	Yes				50

1905 New Jersey Census for Arthur Seymour

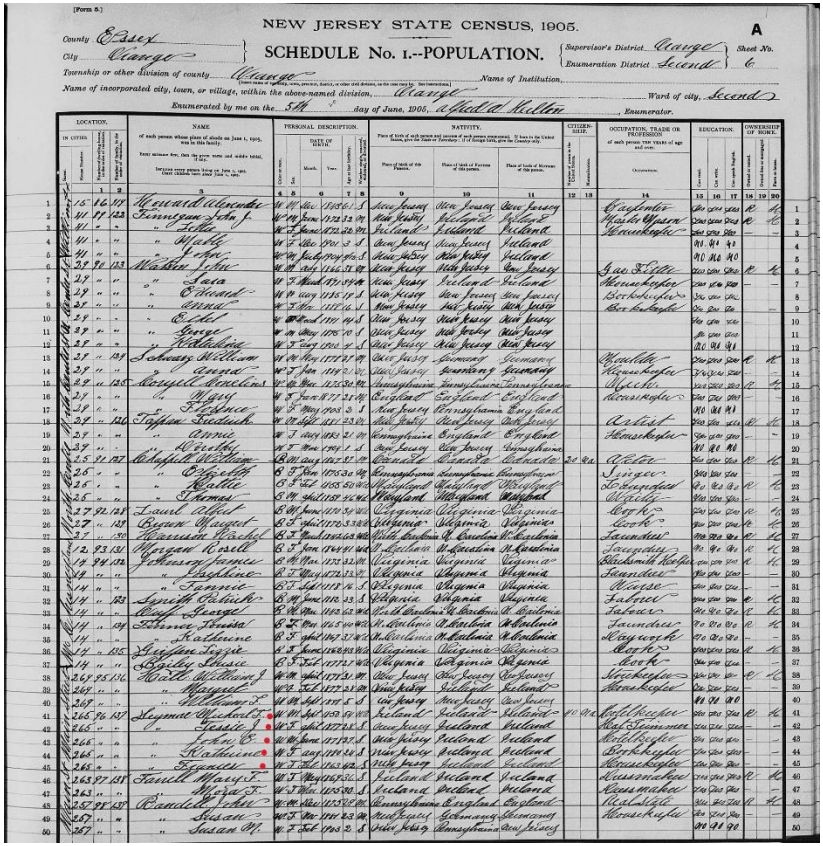
In June 1905, Arthur and Justine Seymour lived at 100 South 13th Street in the Roseville neighborhood of Newark.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Newark, New Jersey - 1909

They likely attended St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, where sons Arthur, Jr. and John were both baptized on the same date of 26 February 1905.



Baptismal record for Arthur, Jr. and John Seymour 26 February 1905



NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, 1905.

A

County Essex

City Orange

SCHEDULE No. 1.--POPULATION.

Supervisor's District Orange

Enumeration District Second

Sheet No. 6

Township or other division of county Orange

Name of Institution

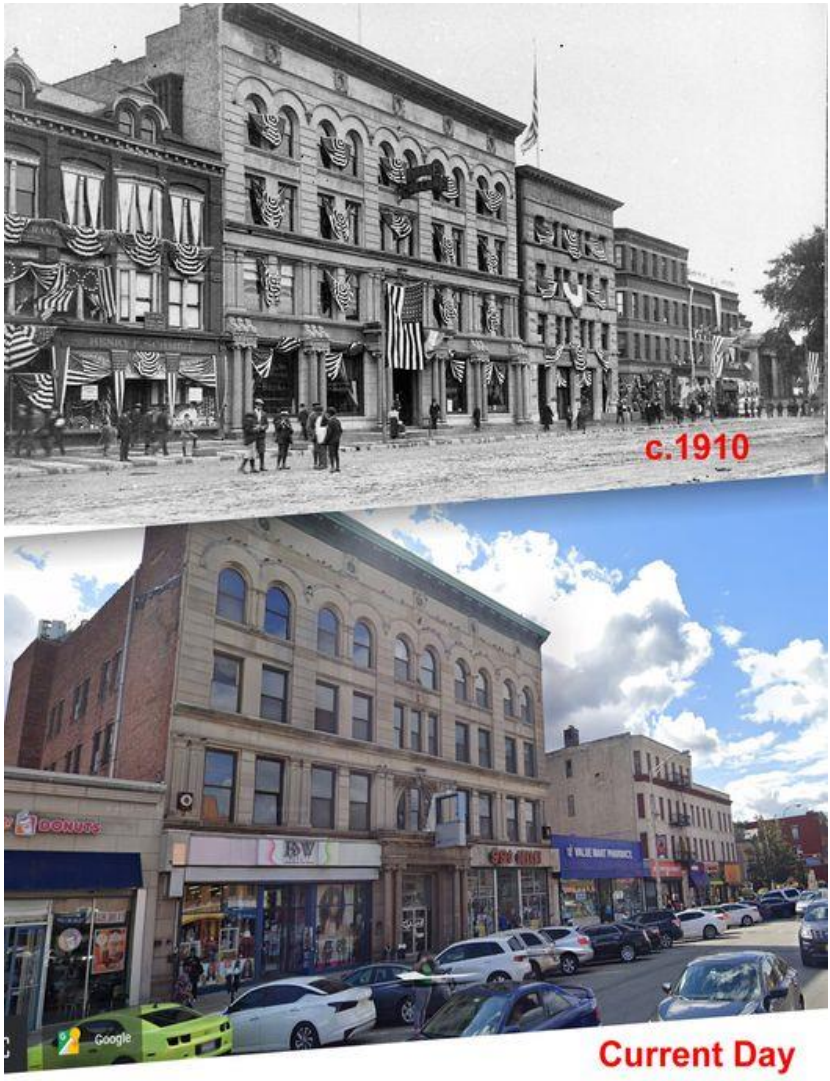
Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Orange

Ward of city, Second

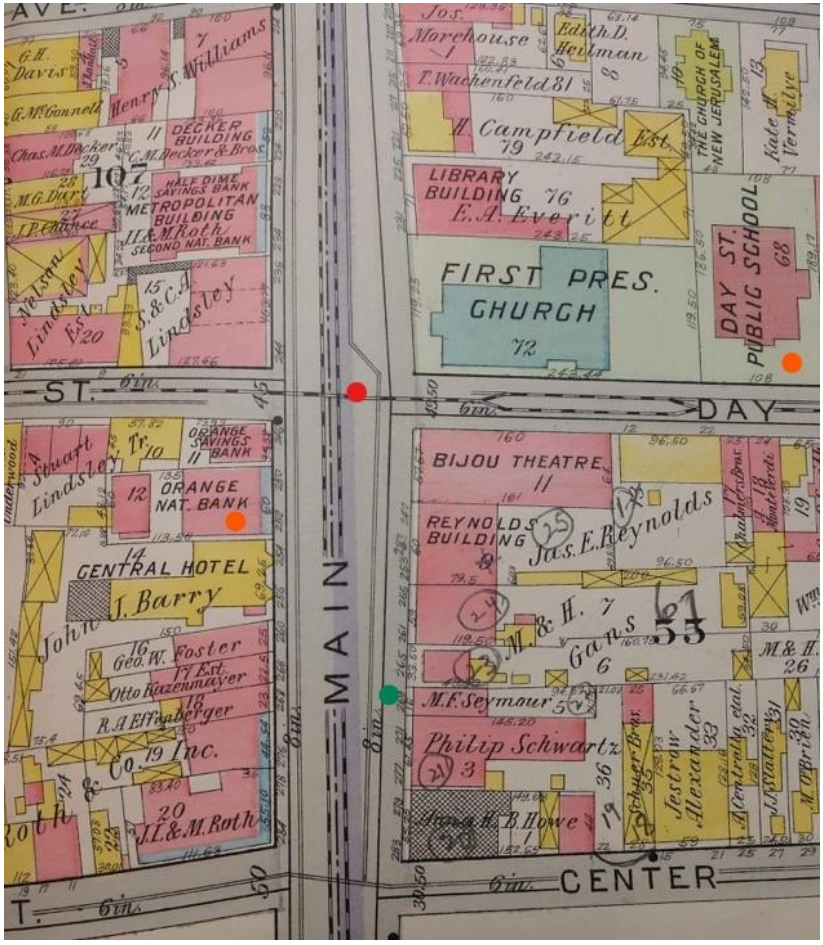
Enumerated by me on the 5th day of June, 1905, Gilbert Hollen, Enumerator.

	LOCATION.		NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1905, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1905. Omit children born after June 1, 1905.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.					NATIVITY.			CITIZEN-SHIP.		OCCUPATION, TRADE OR PROFESSION of each person, ten years of age and over.	EDUCATION.			OWNERSHIP OF HOME.		
	IN CITIES. Street.	House Number.		Color or race.	DATE OF BIRTH. Day.	Month.	Year.	Age at last birthday.	Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.	Number of years in the United States.	Naturalization.	Occupation.	Can read.	Can write.	Can speak English.	Owned or rented.	Owned free or mortgaged.	Place in column.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	15	16	Seymour Alexander	W	M	Dec	1856	48	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey			Engineer	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	1
2	41	22	Finnegan John J.	W	M	June	1872	32	New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland			Machine Opera	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	2
3	41	"	" Ellen	W	F	June	1872	32	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland			Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes			3
4	41	"	" Mary	W	F	Dec	1901	3	New Jersey	New Jersey	Ireland				No	No	No			4
5	41	"	" John	W	M	July	1902	2	New Jersey	New Jersey	Ireland				No	No	No			5
6	37	20	123 Watson Jesse	W	M	July	1845	59	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey			Gas Fitter	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	6
7	37	"	" Sara	W	F	March	1871	34	New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland			Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes			7
8	37	"	" Edward	W	M	May	1895	10	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey			Boy	Yes	Yes	Yes			8
9	37	"	" Anna	W	F	Dec	1897	7	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey			Girl	Yes	Yes	Yes			9
10	37	"	" Ester	W	F	Sept	1901	3	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey				No	Yes	Yes			10
11	37	"	" Grace	W	F	May	1903	2	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey				No	Yes	Yes			11
12	37	"	" Katherine	W	F	Sep	1904	8	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey				No	No	No			12
13	37	"	124 Schaaf William	W	M	May	1877	27	New Jersey	Germany	Germany			Chauffer	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	13
14	37	"	" Anna	W	F	Jan	1878	27	New Jersey	Germany	Germany			Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes			14
15	29	"	125 Mayell Charles	W	M	Nov	1873	31	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania			Clerk	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	15
16	37	"	" Mary	W	F	Jan	1877	28	England	England	England			Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes			16
17	37	"	" Florence	W	F	May	1903	3	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	England				No	No	No			17
18	29	"	126 Taffan Frederick	W	M	Sept	1881	23	New Jersey	New Jersey	Ireland			Artist	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	18
19	37	"	" Anna	W	F	May	1883	21	Pennsylvania	England	England			Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes			19
20	37	"	" Dorothy	W	F	Nov	1901	3	New Jersey	New Jersey	Pennsylvania				No	No	No			20
21	25	"	127 Whitfield William	W	M	May	1872	33	Canada	Canada	Canada	30	Pa	Clerk	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	21
22	25	"	" Ezekiel	B	M	Jan	1826	79	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania			Driver	No	No	Yes			22
23	25	"	" Hattie	B	F	Feb	1868	37	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland			Housework	No	No	No	R	R	23
24	25	"	" Thomas	B	M	Feb	1898	7	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland				No	No	Yes			24
25	27	92	128 Laub Albert	B	M	June	1870	34	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Cook	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	R	25
26	27	"	129 Brown Margret	B	F	Jan	1870	33	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Cook	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	R	26
27	27	"	" Harrison Rachel	B	F	Nov	1865	39	North Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina			Laundress	No	No	No	R	R	27
28	12	93	131 Morgan Rosell	B	F	Jan	1849	56	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina			Laundress	No	No	No	R	R	28
29	14	94	132 Johnson James	B	M	Nov	1870	34	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Blacksmith Helper	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	R	29
30	14	"	" Hayden	B	F	May	1872	33	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Laundress	No	No	Yes			30
31	14	"	" Jennie	B	F	Feb	1901	4	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Boy	Yes	Yes	Yes			31
32	14	"	133 Lynch Elijah	B	M	June	1870	34	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Tailor	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	R	32
33	14	"	" Cooper George	B	M	Nov	1868	36	North Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina			Tailor	No	No	Yes	R	R	33
34	14	"	134 Thomas Louisa	B	F	Nov	1865	39	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina			Laundress	No	No	No	R	R	34
35	14	"	" Katherine	B	F	Feb	1897	37	N. Carolina	N. Carolina	N. Carolina			Hayworth	No	No	No			35
36	12	"	135 Duffan Jessie	B	F	Jan	1868	38	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Cook	No	No	Yes	R	R	36
37	14	"	" Bailey Louise	B	F	Feb	1872	33	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia			Cook	No	No	Yes			37
38	26	95	136 Hall William J	W	M	Feb	1873	32	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey			Stockkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	R	38
39	26	"	" Margret	W	F	Feb	1877	28	New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland			Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes			39
40	26	"	" Williams S	W	M	Oct	1897	8	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey				No	No	No			40
41	26	96	137 Seymour Michael S	W	M	Sept	1868	36	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	40	Pa	Policeman	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	41
42	26	"	" Jessie J	W	F	Sept	1877	27	New Jersey	Scotland	Scotland			Dry Goods	Yes	Yes	Yes			42
43	26	"	" John C	W	M	Aug	1897	7	New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland				No	Yes	Yes			43
44	26	"	" Katherine	W	F	Aug	1899	5	New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland				No	Yes	Yes			44
45	26	"	" Frances	W	F	Feb	1903	2	New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland				No	No	No			45
46	26	97	138 Farrell Mary T.	W	F	May	1875	30	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland			Housemaker	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	46
47	26	"	" Mora T.	W	F	Nov	1895	10	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland			Housemaker	Yes	Yes	Yes			47
48	25	98	139 Randell John	W	M	Dec	1873	31	Pennsylvania	England	England			Machinist	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	M	48
49	25	"	" Susan	W	F	Nov	1874	30	New Jersey	Germany	Germany			Housekeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes			49
50	25	"	" Susan M.	W	F	Feb	1903	2	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	New Jersey				No	No	No			50

1905 New Jersey Census for Michael Seymour



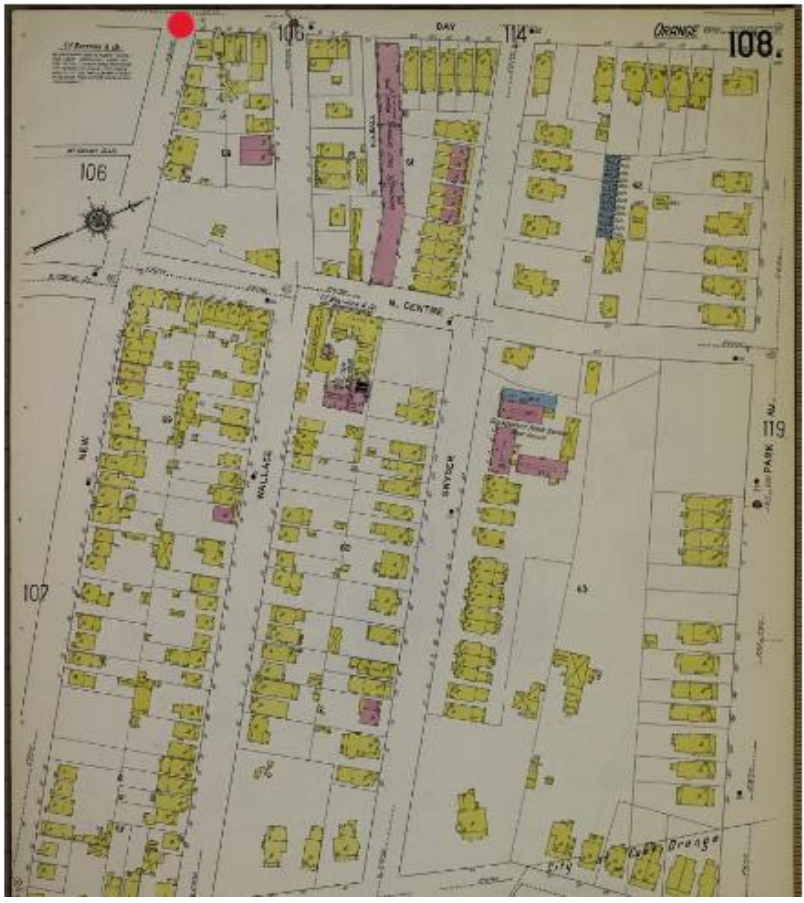
Main Street, Orange, New Jersey Facing West from Day Street. The large Metropolitan Building is still there.



Map of Orange, New Jersey - 1911

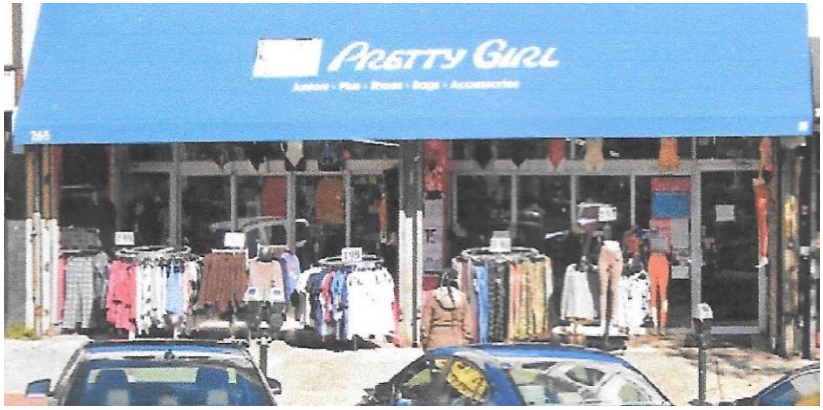
The above map, from the Mueller Atlas of Essex County, shows the center of Orange in 1911. The intersection of Main and Day is marked by the red dot. The location of "Seymour House," marked by the green dot, is clearly identified by the name, M.F. Seymour. The Day Street Public School, marked by the orange dot, also served as the Orange City Hall where my grandfather served as mayor. This building, dedicated on 13 September 1869, as the Orange High School, was also where he attended high school. The orange dot on the west side of Main Street marks the Orange National Bank

Building where my grandfather's law office was located. The music hall was now called the Bijou Theater..



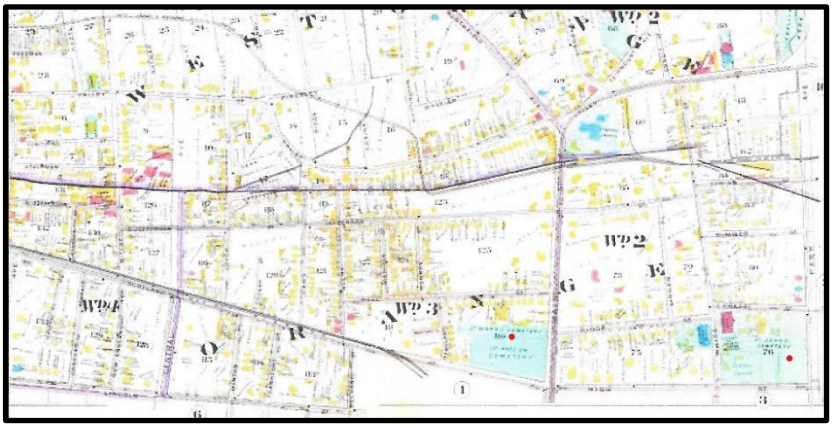
Sanborn Map of Orange 1912

The red dot on the above map marks the corner of Main and Day Streets.. Mayor Arthur Seymours office is on Day Street to the right of the dot.



265 Main Street, Orange, New Jersey - 2021

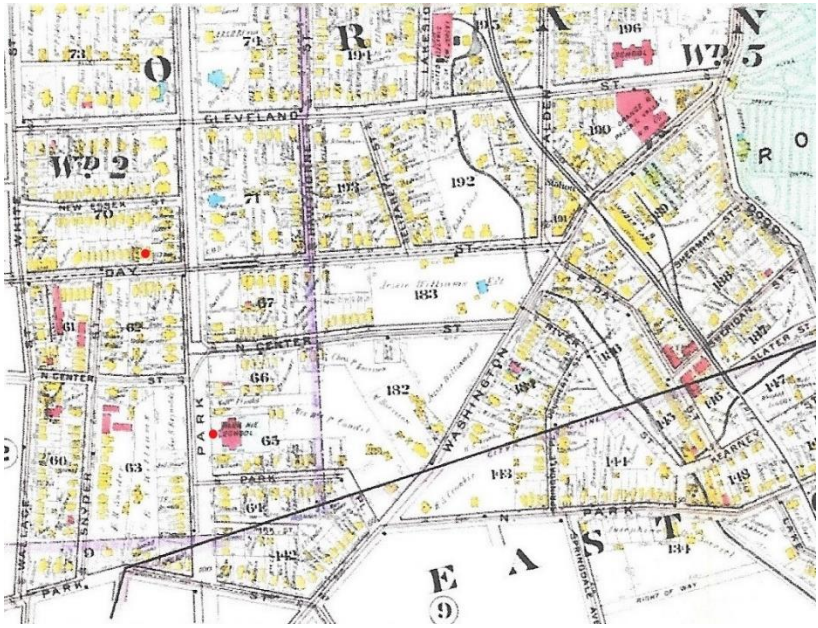
A century later, a women's clothing store, Pretty Girl, is at the same location as "Seymour House."



Map of St. Mark's Cemetery and St. John's 1904

This map shows St. Mark's Episcopal Cemetery and St. John's Catholic Church, school and cemetery in 1904. There is also a Sisters of Charity Academy and a Columbus Hall at St.John's. St. Mark's Cemetery is to the right of the Presbyterian Cemetery. St. Mark's is marked by the red dot in the lower center, St. John's by the red dot on the lower right.

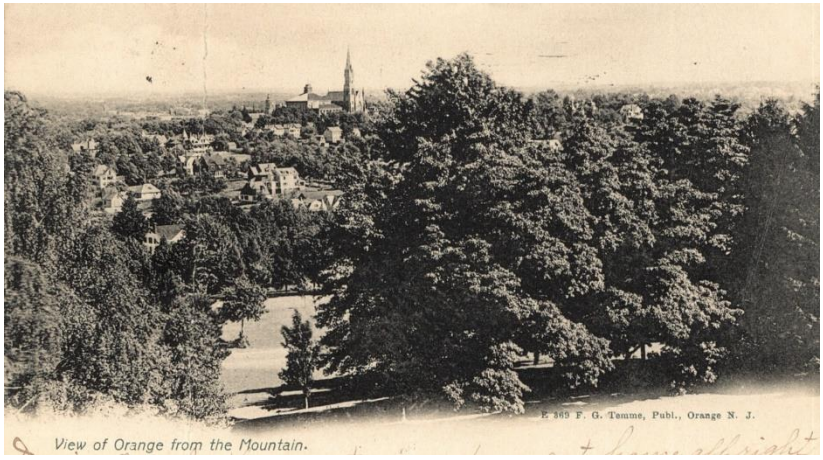
Postcard View of High Street from Main in 1906



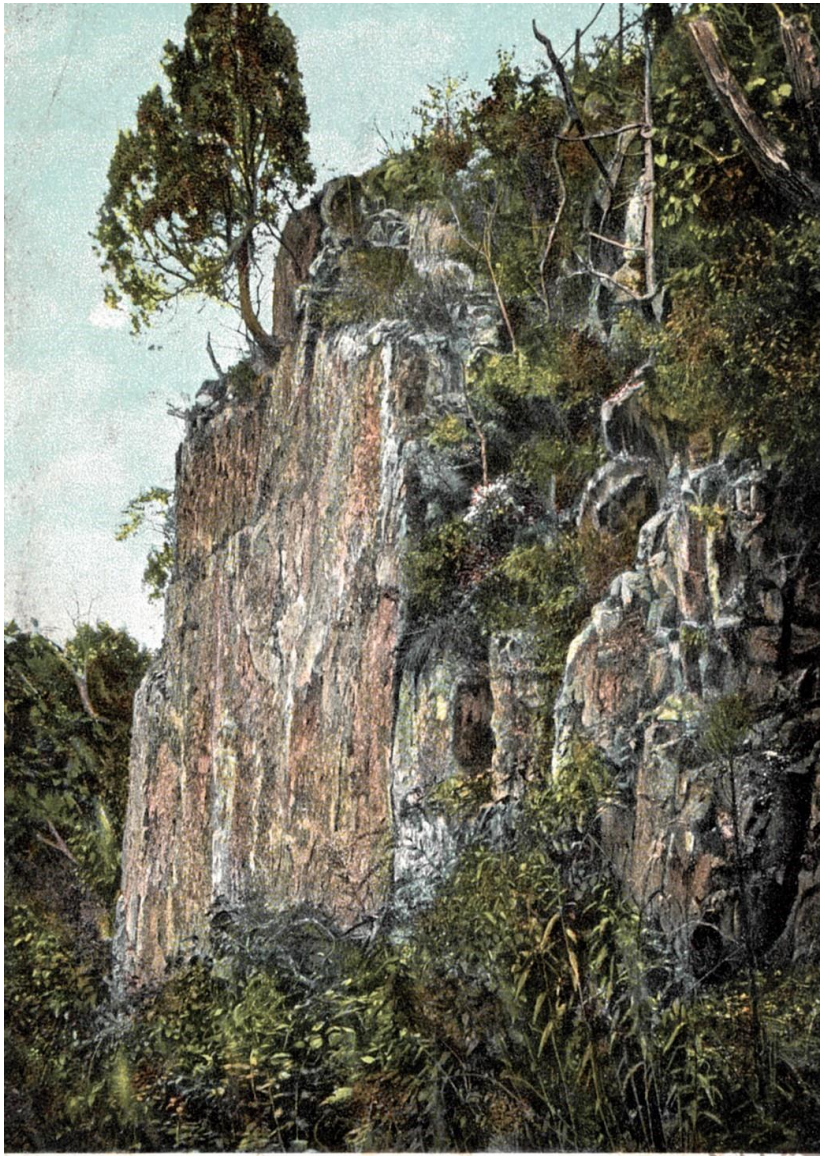
Location of John Seymours Home and Park Avenue Elementary School 1904

This map shows the location of John Seymours home at 155 North Day Street and Park Avenue Elementary School. John's home

is marked by a red dot at the middle left and the school is marked by a red dot at the lower left. St. John's church and cemetery is above the left corner of the map.



Postcard View of Orange from Orange Mountain - 1906



Face of Eagle Rock - 1906

Steps to Eagle Rock - 1906

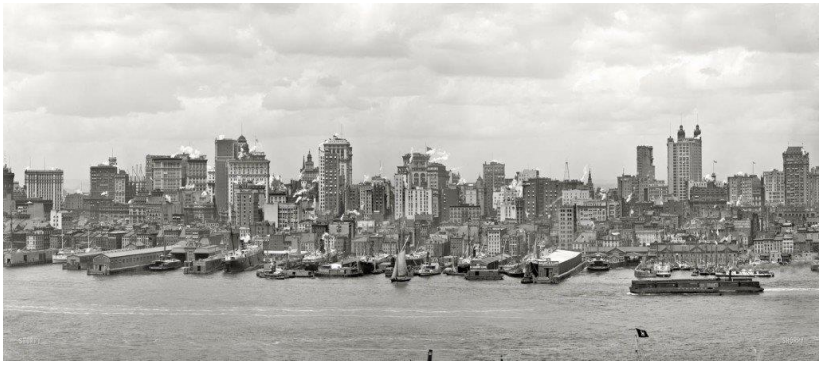
Looking Off Eagle Rock Summit - 1906

Eagle Rock Casino - 1906

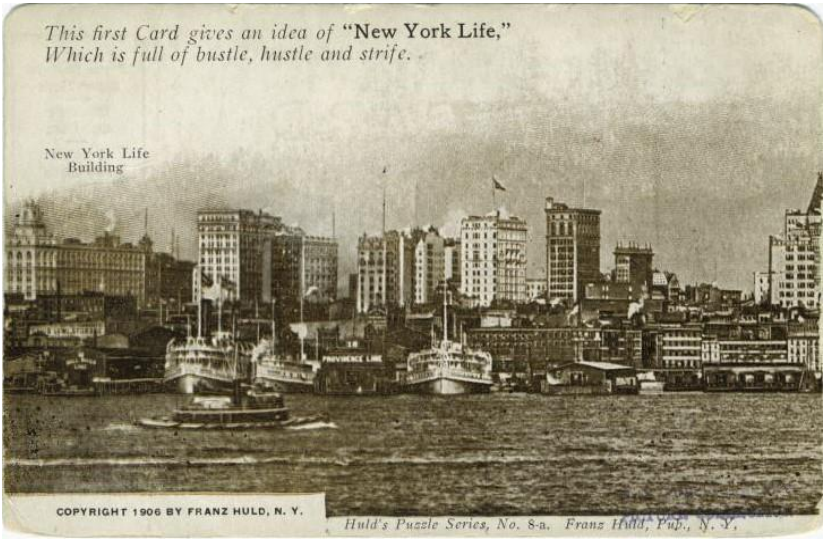
The Grove at Eagle Rock - 1906

When the Seymours visited the Orange Mountains, they undoubtedly went to Eagle Rock. On July 20,1894, the Eagle Rock trolley line opened providing service from Orange to the base of Eagle Rock at Cox's Hotel. To get to the top of Eagle Rock they had to ascend the steps located just across the street from the hotel. The trolley's last run was on April 19, 1924.

As shown in the postcard views above, they would have been able to look back at Orange and enjoy the natural settings. From the summit, they may have seen the growing New York City skyline below.



New York City Skyline - 1906


This first Card gives an idea of "New York Life,"
Which is full of bustle, hustle and strife.
New York Life Building
PROVIDENCE LINE
COPYRIGHT 1906 BY FRANZ HULD, N. Y.
Huld's Puzzle Series, No. 8-a. Franz Huld, Pub., N. Y.

New York City Waterfront - 1906

After talking with his uncle, Arthur Browne, in 1906 my grandfather wrote the following notes about his maternal and paternal ancestors.

see note at end

On January 6, 1906 my uncle, Arthur Browne gave me the following information concerning our family -

1. He was born November 29, 1850 at 100 Greene Street, New York - baptized at Trinity Church, New York, godmother a Mrs. James, mother of Kitty James of New York, godfather unknown.

2. His brother's name is William Louvier Browne, father of Sadie - He is dead, buried in Orange. He was born December 14, 1849 at 100 Greene Street, baptized at Trinity Church, N.Y. Godfather and godmother unknown.

3. His sister's name, Selina Anna Browne, my mother - born May 7, 1854, at 100 Greene Street and Baptized at Trinity Church, New York, godfather and godmother unknown.

4. Their father was Arthur Browne who was born in North Ireland and married a Catherine Louvier of Paris in England. They came to America and had three children, Arthur, William L. and Selina A.

5. Catherine Louvier Browne died 1859 at 100 Greene Street New York buried in St. Mark's Cemetery, Orange - He remarried, a Kate Wallace about 1862 - don't know where married. They had o ne child a girl, who died at 9 mos. of age, buried in Calvary. He died about 1865 at 188 Greene Street, New York and was buried in St. Mark's Cemetery. He left his widow and Arthur, William L. and Selina A. surviving. His widow kept house for a month and then broke up. Arthur went to Jackson, Michigan 1865, returned in 1872 to New York to Orange. William L. went to Orange. Selina A. went to work in Lafayette Street, New York, then to New Haven and then to Orange.

6. Uncle Arthur's father's mother's name was Anne P. Browne. She came from England, a widow - was mother of twelve children (she is buried in St. Mark's Cemetery, Orange, and on her headstone it is stated that she is the mother of 13 children). Her only son was Arthur who married Catherine Louvier.

No girls are unknown to Uncle Arthur except:

(a) Mrs. Cummings, Meriden, Connecticut whose daughter's name is Lizzie Ammon, Meriden, Connecticut,

(b) Mrs. Lizzie Harrold, Orange who married Christopher Harrold, whose daughter is Mary R. Johnston nee Savage nee Harrold, of Orange.

Mrs. Egan of Compton, Square County Crescent, London, England, may be a sister of Mrs. Harrold.

The names in our family on mother's side, therefor are: Browne, Louvier, Harrold, Cummings.

Other names I remember are Jim Cummings of Bridgeport, the Danns who came to Orange from Connecticut, Joe Browne, formerly a minstrel who lived with the Danns, the Ammons of Meriden.

The family plot adjoins the driveway between the Presbyterian and St. Mark's Cemetery about 300 feet more or less from Main Street on the west of the driveway. There are several small white headstones in it.

These notes were later passed down to me via Arthur's grandson, Peter Petrocelli and my aunt Rosemary Seymour. They were a key starting point in my research because they identified the places where my Browne and Seymour ancestors had lived before coming to America.

Charter Day Parade - 12 March 1910

ORANGE CELEBRATES TOWN CHARTER DAY

Old Rivalry of Her Offspring Forgotten in General Rejoicing on 50th Anniversary.

PARADE MILE AND HALF LONG

With a Special Drill by the Firemen—Only Native Clergyman and Original Official in Line.

With flags fluttering from every building, bands playing patriotic airs, and several thousand people thronging the streets to watch a military and civic procession, the town of Orange, N. J., yesterday celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of a new charter permitting the town to incorporate. Despite the fact that this charter resulted in the division of the original town of Orange into three separate municipalities, the two dissenters, East and West Orange, threw aside all their past feeling and joined the parent Orange yesterday in celebrating "Charter Day."

Law Offices

ARTHUR B. SEYMOUR,

National Bank Building,

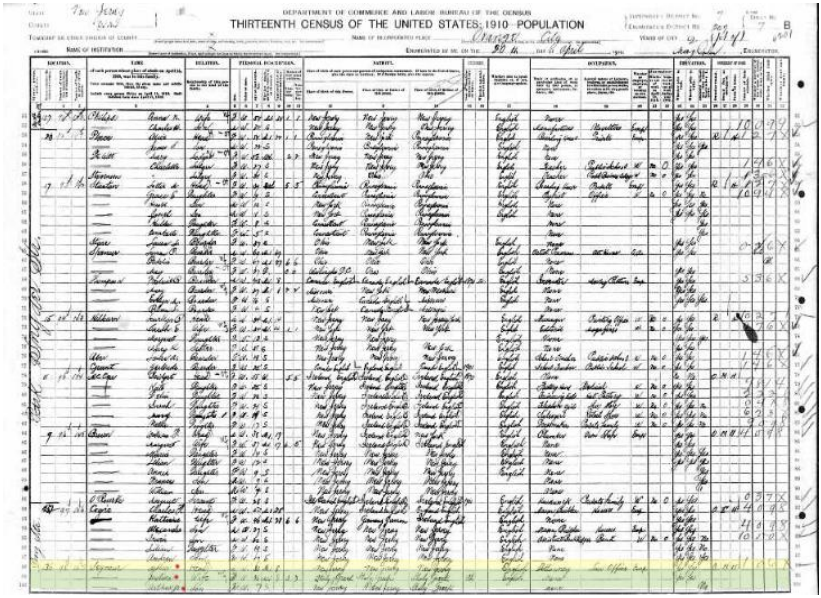
252 MAIN STREET, : : ORANGE, N. J.

Office Telephone 433. Residence Telephone 249.

New York Times

1910 City Directory

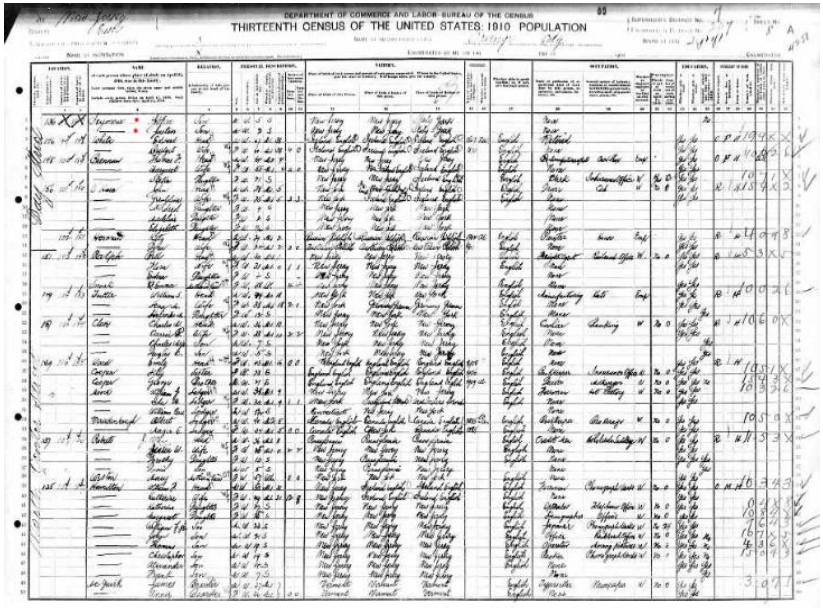
1910 Federal Census



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

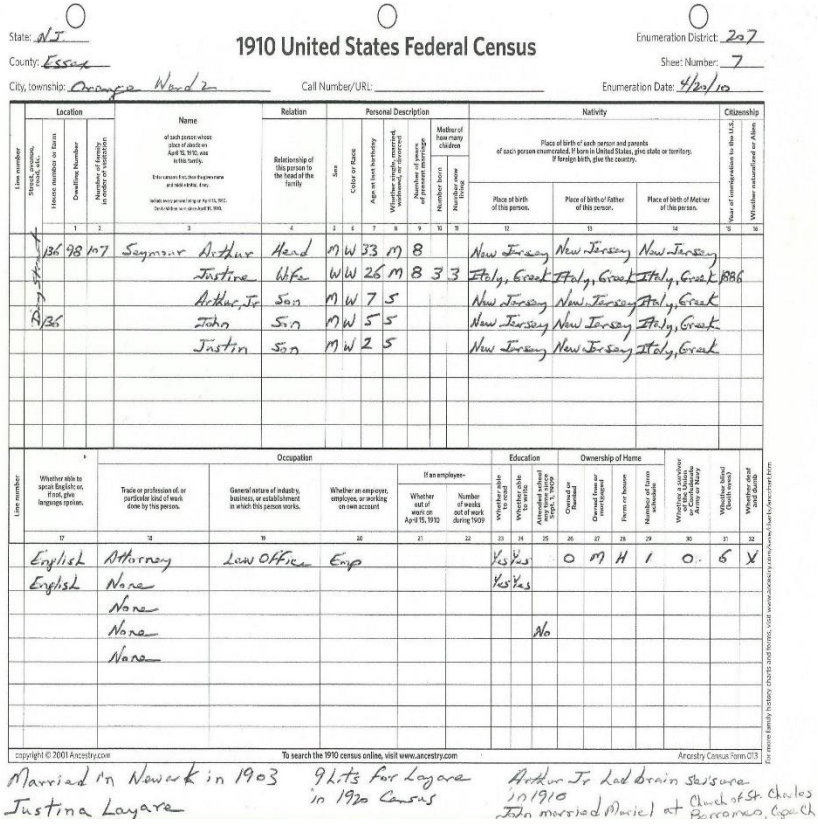
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1910—POPULATION

1910 Census for Arthur Seymour #1


DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 — POPULATION

1910 Census for Arthur Seymour #2



State: NJ
County: Essex
City, township: Orange Ward 2
Call Number/URL:

1910 United States Federal Census

Enumeration District: 207
Sheet Number: 7
Enumeration Date: 4/20/10

Line number	Location: Street, avenue, road, etc.	Location: House number or farm	Location: Dwelling Number	Location: Number of family in order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family. Enter surname first, then given name and middle initial, if any. Initial letter of given name only if Ap'l 15, 1910, Enter letter w or d if dead Jan'y 1, 1911.	Relation: Relationship of this person to the head of the family	Personal Description: Sex	Color or Race	Age at last birthday	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years of present marriage	Mother of how many children: Number born	Mother of how many children: Number now living	Nativity: Place of birth of this person.	Nativity: Place of birth of Father of this person.	Nativity: Place of birth of Mother of this person.	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the U.S.	Citizenship: Whether naturalized or Alien
		1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	N. Day St	136	98	107	Seymour Arthur	Head	M	W	33	M	8			New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey		
					Justine	Wife	W	W	26	M	8	3	3	Italy, Greek	Italy, Greek	Italy, Greek	1906	
					Arthur, Jr	Son	M	W	7	S				New Jersey	New Jersey	Italy, Greek		
		136			John	Son	M	W	5	S				New Jersey	New Jersey	Italy, Greek		
					Justin	Son	M	W	2	S				New Jersey	New Jersey	Italy, Greek		

Line number	Whether able to speak English or, if not, give language spoken.	Occupation: Trade or profession of, or particular kind of work done by this person.	Occupation: General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works.	Occupation: Whether an employer, employee, or working on own account	If employee: Whether out of work on April 15, 1910	If employee: Number of weeks out of work during 1909	Education: Whether able to read	Education: Whether able to write	Education: Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1909	Ownership of Home: Owned or Rented	Ownership of Home: Owned free or mortgaged	Ownership of Home: Farm or house	Number of farm schedule	Whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Confederate Navy	Whether blind (both eyes)	Whether deaf and dumb
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
	English	Attorney	Law Office	Emp			Yes	Yes		O	M	H	1	O.	6	X
	English	None					Yes	Yes								
		None							No							
		None														
		None														

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Ancestry Census Form 013
For more family history charts and forms, visit www.ancestry.com/charts/family.htm

Married in Newark in 1903 Justina Layare

9 Kids for Layare in 1920 Census

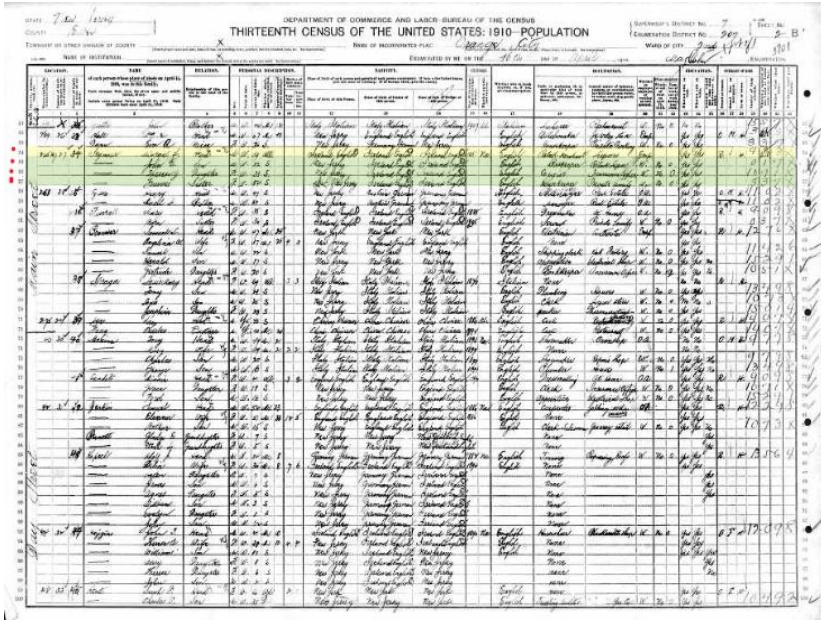
Arthur Jr had brain seizures in 1910
John married Muriel at Church of St. Charles Borromeo, Ozone Ch

1910 Family Group Sheet for Arthur Seymour

He and his wife Justina (Justine) now had a family of three boys, Arthur, Jr., born 26 April 1903, my father, John, born 4 January 1905 and Justin born 9 July 1907. They lived at 136 North Day Street.

Justin and John Seymour - 1910

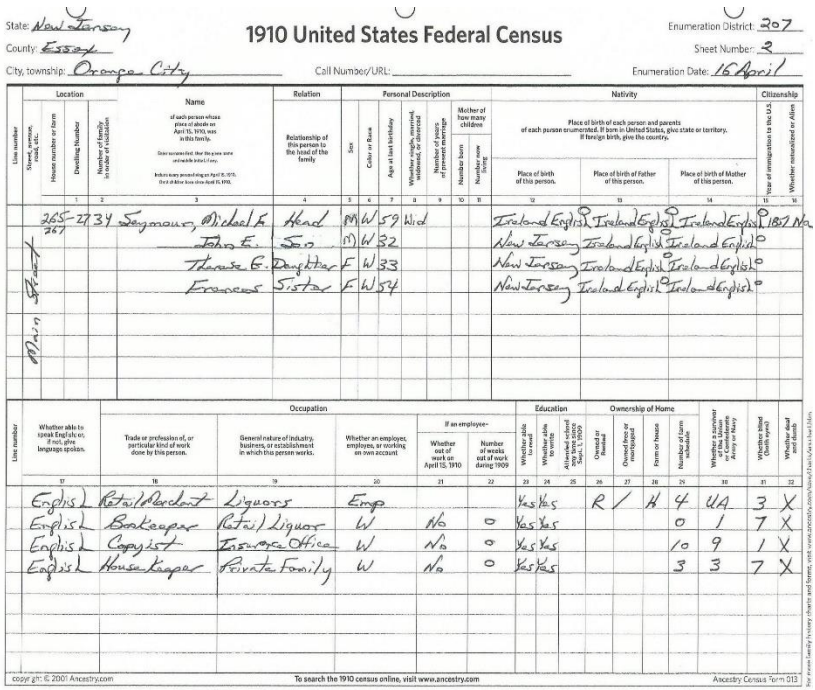
1910 Federal Census



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910—POPULATION

1910 Census for Michael Seymour



State: New Jersey
County: Essex
City, township: Orange City
1910 United States Federal Census
Call Number/URL:
Enumeration District: 207
Sheet Number: 3
Enumeration Date: 16 April

Location	Name	Relation	Personal Description						Nativity			Citizenship	
Street, avenue, road, etc.	of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family.	Relationship of this person to the head of the family	Sex	Color or Race	Age at last birthday	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years of present marriage	Mother of how many children: Number born / Number now living	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.	Year of immigration to the U.S.	Whether naturalized or Alien
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
265-267	Seymour, Michael F.	Head	M	W	59	Wid					Ireland (English)	Ireland (English)	Ireland (English)	1867	Na
	John E.	Son	M	W	32						New Jersey	Ireland (English)	Ireland (English)		
	Theresa E.	Daughter	F	W	33						New Jersey	Ireland (English)	Ireland (English)		
	Frances	Sister	F	W	54						New Jersey	Ireland (English)	Ireland (English)		

Occupation						Education			Ownership of Home						
Whether able to speak English or, if not, give language spoken.	Trade or profession of, or particular kind of work done by this person.	General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works.	Whether an employer, employee, or working on own account	If an employee: Whether out of work on April 15, 1910	If an employee: Number of weeks out of work during 1909	Whether able to read	Whether able to write	Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1909	Owned or Rented	Owned free or mortgaged	Farm or house	Number of farm schedule	Whether a soldier of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy	Whether blind (Inability to see)	Whether deaf-mute
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
English	Retail Merchant	Liquors	Emp			Yes	Yes		R	/	H	4	UA	3	X
English	Bookkeeper	Retail Liquor	W	No	0	Yes	Yes					0	1	7	X
English	Copyist	Insurance Office	W	No	0	Yes	Yes					10	9	1	X
English	House Keeper	Private Family	W	No	0	Yes	Yes					3	3	7	X

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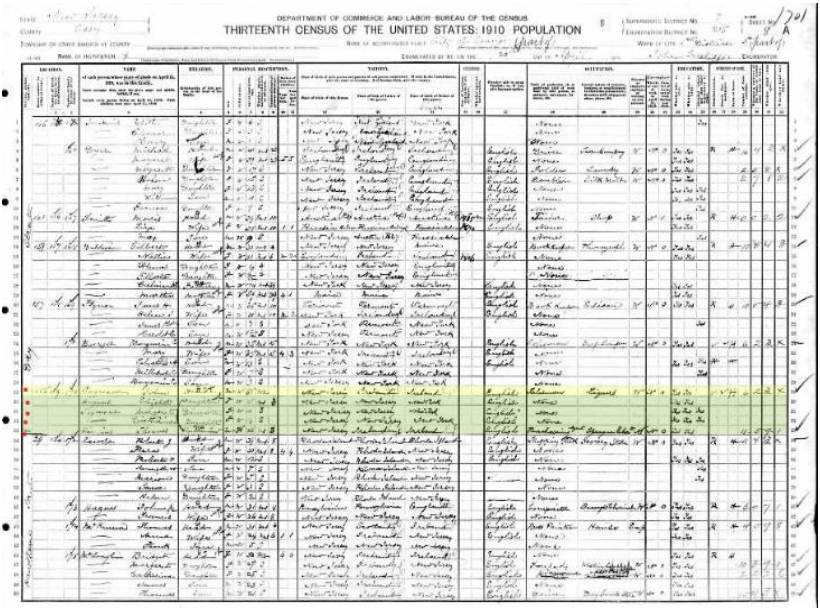
Ancestry Census Form 013

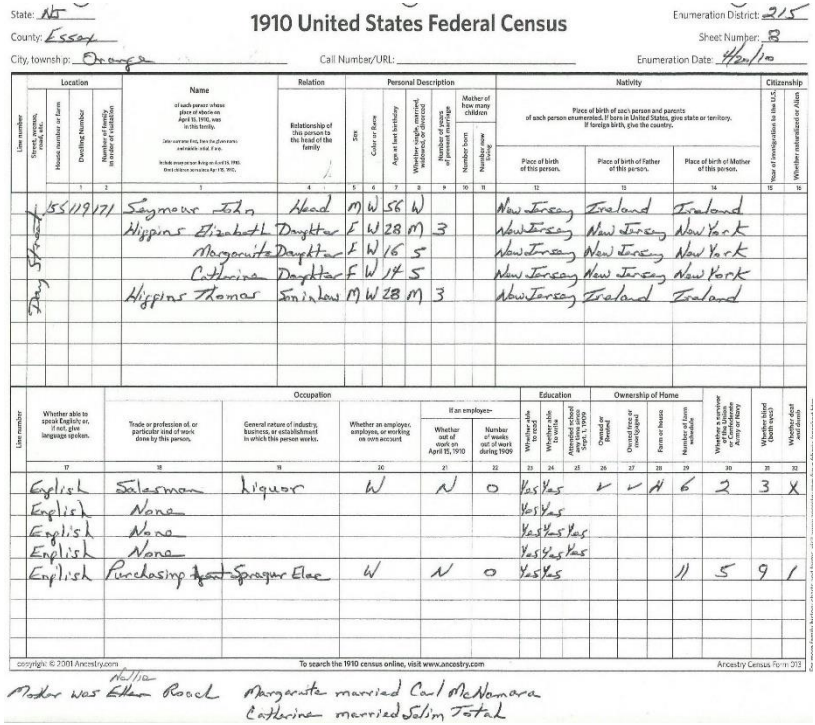
1910 Family Group Sheet for Michael Seymour

Michael continued to reside at “Seymour House” on Main Street. His daughter, Catherine, was now married and living elsewhere


DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 — POPULATION

1910 Census for John Seymour


State: NJ
County: Essex
City, township: Orange
1910 United States Federal Census
Enumeration District: 215
Sheet Number: B
Call Number/URL:
Enumeration Date: 4/20/10

Line number	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number or farm	Dwelling Number	Number of family in order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family.	Relation: Relationship of this person to the head of the family	Sex	Color or Race	Age at last birthday	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced	Mother of how many children: Number born	Mother of how many children: Number now living	Nativity: Place of birth of this person.	Nativity: Place of birth of Father of this person.	Nativity: Place of birth of Mother of this person.	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the U.S.	Citizenship: Whether naturalized or Alien
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Day	155	119	171	Seymour John	Head	M	W	56	W			New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland		
					Higgins Elizabeth	Daughter	F	W	28	M	3		New Jersey	New Jersey	New York		
					Marguerite	Daughter	F	W	16	S			New Jersey	New Jersey	New York		
					Catherine	Daughter	F	W	14	S			New Jersey	New Jersey	New York		
					Higgins Thomas	Son in law	M	W	28	M	3		New Jersey	Ireland	Ireland		

Line number	Whether able to speak English or, if not, give language spoken.	Occupation: Trade or profession of, or particular kind of work done by this person.	Occupation: General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works.	Occupation: Whether an employer, employee, or working on own account	If an employee: Whether out of work on April 15, 1910	If an employee: Number of weeks out of work during 1909	Education: Whether able to read	Education: Whether able to write	Education: Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1909	Ownership of Home: Owned or Rented	Ownership of Home: Owned free or mortgaged	Ownership of Home: Farm or house	Ownership of Home: Number of farm schedule	Whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy	Whether blind (both eyes)	Whether deaf and dumb
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
	English	Salesman	liquor	W	N	0	Yes	Yes			✓	✓	N	6	2	3	X
	English	None					Yes	Yes									
	English	None					Yes	Yes	Yes								
	English	None					Yes	Yes	Yes								
	English	Purchasing Agent Sprague Elec		W	N	0	Yes	Yes					11	5	9	1	

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Ancestry Census Form 213

Mother was Ellen Nellie Roach Margarita married Carl McNamara
Catherine married Selim Jotal

1910 Family Group Sheet for John Seymour

John continued to reside at 155 Day Street with his three daughters, Elizabeth, Marguerite and Catherine, Elizabeth had married Thomas Higgins in 1906. When Pop married Mom in 1939, Elizabeth and Thomas became my first cousins once removed.

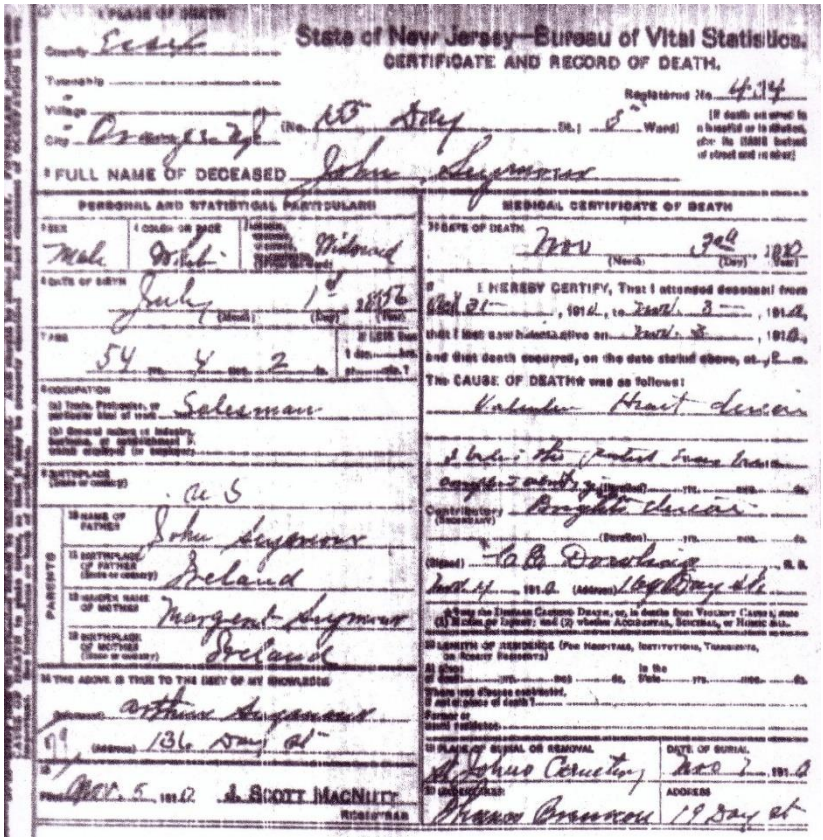
Marguerite & Catherine (Kitty) Seymour - 1904

Marguerite, Justin and Catherine (Kitty) Seymour 1908

Tom Higgins and Elizabeth Seymour - 1905

My grandaunt Elizabeth, known as Lea or Lizzie, married Thomas Higgins on 6 June 1906. When my father, John Seymour, married my mother, Muriel Higgins, Thomas became my granduncle.

Great-grandfather John Seymours Death



State of New Jersey—Bureau of Vital Statistics.
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

Registered No. 4.14

Essex
Orange
155 Day
8th Ward
FULL NAME OF DECEASED John Seymour

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
Male | White | Widowed
DATE OF BIRTH July 1st 1836
54 Yr. 4 Mo. 2 Da.
OCCUPATION Salesman
BIRTHPLACE U S
PARENTS
NAME OF FATHER John Seymour
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Ireland
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Margaret Seymour
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Ireland
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the above is true to the best of my knowledge
Arthur Seymour
155 Day St
Nov. 5 1910 J. SCOTT MACNULTY Register

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
DATE OF DEATH Nov 3rd 1910
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Oct 31 1910, to Nov 3 1910,
that I last saw him alive on Nov 3 1910,
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 2 m.
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Valvular Heart Disease
Contributory: Bright's Disease
(Signed) C. B. Donaldson M. D.
Nov 4 1910 (Address) 169 Day St
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)
In place of death yrs mos da. In the State yrs mos da.
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?
Former or usual residence.
PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL St Johns Cemetery
DATE OF BURIAL Nov 7 1910
UNDERTAKER Thomas Brannon
ADDRESS 19 Day St

John Seymour Death Certificate

Later that year, my great-grandfather, John Seymour, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home at 155 Day Street on 3 November 1910. Election campaigning was suspended.

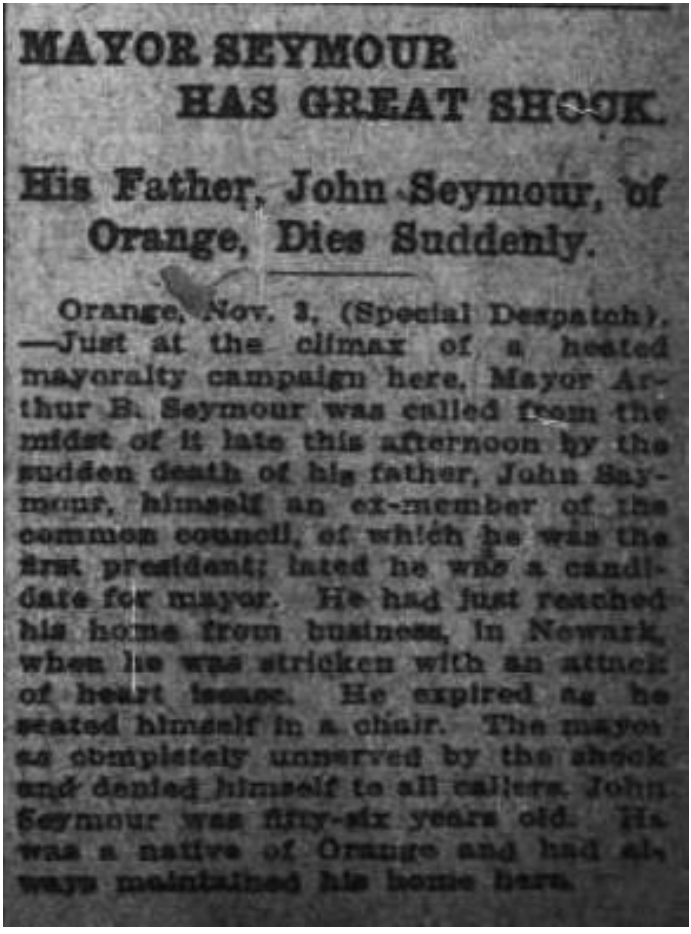
DEATH ENDS ORANGE CAMPAIGN

Opponents of Mayor Seymour Respect Memory of Executive's Father.

Orange, N. J., Nov. 4 (Special).—Out of respect to Mayor Arthur B. Seymour and to the memory of his father, John Seymour, who died suddenly last night at his home, all campaigning by the Republican opponents of the Mayor, who is seeking re-election this year, has been called off. Andrew J. Heberling, president of the Common Council, who is acting as Mayor in the temporary absence of the executive, issued a proclamation to-day in which a tribute was paid to the elder Seymour, who was a former member and a former president of the Common Council. The flags upon the public buildings of the city are at half mast and all the city offices will be closed during the funeral, which will take place in St. John's Church on Monday.

Death Stops Election Campaigning.

ORANGE, N. J., Nov. 4. Out of respect for Mayor Arthur B. Seymour and the memory of his father, John Seymour, who died suddenly last night, all campaigning by the Republican opponents of the Mayor, who is seeking reelection, has been called off.



MAYOR SEYMOUR
HAS GREAT SHOCK.

His Father, John Seymour, of Orange, Dies Suddenly.

Orange, Nov. 3, (Special Despatch). —Just at the climax of a heated mayoralty campaign here, Mayor Arthur B. Seymour was called from the midst of it late this afternoon by the sudden death of his father, John Seymour, himself an ex-member of the common council, of which he was the first president; lated he was a candidate for mayor. He had just reached his home from business, in Newark, when he was stricken with an attack of heart issase. He expired as he seated himself in a chair. The mayor as completely unnerved by the shock and denied himself to all callers. John Seymour was fifty-six years old. He was a native of Orange and had always maintained his home here.

As Reported in the Newspapers

Holy Name Parade 8 October 1911

(Grand Marshal Arthur Seymour standing right of Center)

Holy Name Parade.

The Holy Name Societies of Montclair, Bloomfield and the Oranges made plans Sunday for a parade in Orange on Sunday afternoon, October 8. Mayor Arthur B. Seymour, of Orange, will be grand marshal. The parade will end at the spacious grounds about St. Mary's Hospital, where exercises will be held. The Rev. Dr. Thomas McLaughlin, of Seton Hall College, South Orange, will be the principal speaker. Judge Thomas A. Davis will be the lay speaker. The benediction will be given with music by choir boys under the direction of Father Edward M. Farrell, of the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, East Orange. It is expected that from 1,500 to 2,000 men will march.

ORANGE CITY GOVERNMENT

1912

Mayor—Arthur B. Seymour.
City Clerk—Willett B. Gano.
Auditor—Nathaniel J. Burton.
City Counsel—William Adgate Lord.
Collector of Taxes—Frank G. Coughtry.
City Physician—D. Jerome O'Brien.
Street Commissioner—John F. Driscoll.
City Engineer—Fred T. Crane.
Building Inspector—George P. Roberts.
Overseer of the Poor—Gustave Kunz.
Superintendent Water Works—Isaac H. Travis.
Sealer of Weights and Measurer—Vacant.

COMMON COUNCIL.

Regular meeting on the first and third Monday evenings of each month at eight o'clock in Council Chamber.
President—Sylvanus J. Shaw.
First Ward—Frank J. Murray, P. Allen Smith, John C. Fineran.
Second Ward—Charles A. Le Master, Charles F. Coyne, Henry T. Stetson.
Third Ward—Edward Cheetham, Daniel Coleman, Patrick A. Quinn.
Fourth Ward—Richard J. Keeley, Owen P. Casey, Owen C. Dolan.
Fifth ward—Harry W. Berryman, Andrew J. Heberling.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.

Finance and Accounts—Stetson, Fineran, Keeley, Coleman and Heberling.
Streets, Market Stands, and Street Lighting—Coleman, Smith, Keeley, Coyne and Heberling.
Poor and Alms—Heberling, Keeley, Murray, Stetson and Quinn.
Police, Shows, Licenses and Exhibitions, Elections, Public Health—Quinn, Smith, Dolan, Le Master and Berryman.
Contingent Account, Assessments, Officers and Salaries, Legislative Matters, Legal Questions and Miscellaneous Business—Casey, Quinn, Stetson, Berryman and Murray.
Water—Dolan, Coleman, Fineran, Stetson, and Berryman.
Sewer—Smith, Coleman, Casey, Stetson and Berryman.
Ordinances, Public Schools, Public Buildings, Printing and Stationery—Keeley, Stetson, Heberling, Quinn and Murray.
Railroads—Fineran, Stetson, Casey, Cheetham and Heberling.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONERS.

Miles A. Hanchett, Rufus Mead, Frederick H. Williams, Henry M. Matthews, Alexander Clark.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

Commissioners—President, G. Herbert Richards, M.D., John T. Davis, Oliver S. Williams, James Kane, D. W. Foor, M.D., Louis M. Sanders, Ludlow B. Clark.
Health Officer—J. Scott MacNutt.
Plumbing Inspector—Thomas F. Harris.
Sanitary Inspector—Richard Savage.
Pathologist—Walter Dodge, M.D.

BOARD OF EXCISE.

Emil Schultze, Adam H. Groel, Patrick Regan.

COMMISSIONERS OF SINKING FUND.

Mayor Arthur B. Seymour, Albridge C. Smith, John D. Everitt, William Hiker, Jr., George E. Letheridge, Horace Stetson.

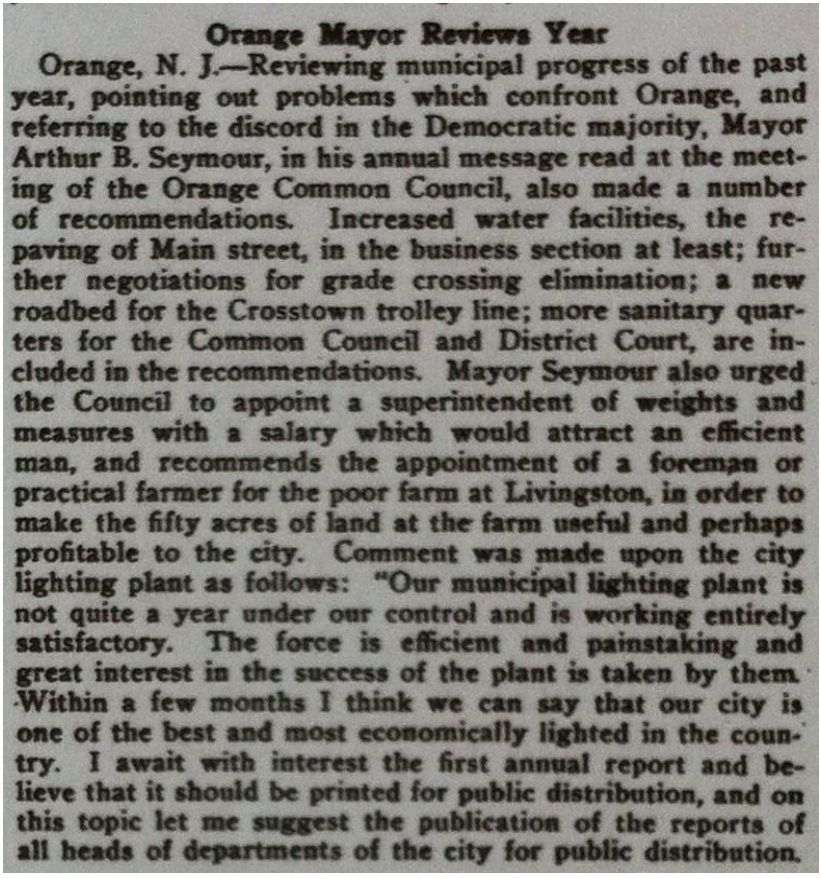
TAX ASSESSORS.

First District—John P. Lee.
Second District—Terrence J. Devine.
Third District—William F. Kearney.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Chief—George P. Washer.
Police Justice—Joseph B. Bray.
Sergeants—Callahan McCarthy, Thomas M. Ryan.
Detectives—John Drabell, Thomas M. Brown.
Roundsmen—Samuel J. Graham, Timothy Cronan, Eugene Finneran.

Government Listing in 1912 City Directory



Orange Mayor Reviews Year

Orange, N. J.—Reviewing municipal progress of the past year, pointing out problems which confront Orange, and referring to the discord in the Democratic majority, Mayor Arthur B. Seymour, in his annual message read at the meeting of the Orange Common Council, also made a number of recommendations. Increased water facilities, the repaving of Main street, in the business section at least; further negotiations for grade crossing elimination; a new roadbed for the Crosstown trolley line; more sanitary quarters for the Common Council and District Court, are included in the recommendations. Mayor Seymour also urged the Council to appoint a superintendent of weights and measures with a salary which would attract an efficient man, and recommends the appointment of a foreman or practical farmer for the poor farm at Livingston, in order to make the fifty acres of land at the farm useful and perhaps profitable to the city. Comment was made upon the city lighting plant as follows: "Our municipal lighting plant is not quite a year under our control and is working entirely satisfactory. The force is efficient and painstaking and great interest in the success of the plant is taken by them. Within a few months I think we can say that our city is one of the best and most economically lighted in the country. I await with interest the first annual report and believe that it should be printed for public distribution, and on this topic let me suggest the publication of the reports of all heads of departments of the city for public distribution.

On 18 January 1912, Mayor Seymour gave his annual message to the Common Council as reported above. He was particularly pleased with the city's lighting system

Justin, Justine and John Seymour - 1912

Left to right in middle: John, Justine, Fanny, Frank Higgins and Justin Seymour – 1912

Woman not identified

In 1912, Arthur was defeated for a third term as Mayor by Frank J. Murray, a Republican. This was the first time in 14 years a Republican was elected Mayor. In 1914, a Democrat was again elected Mayor. The new Mayor, Daniel Francis Minahan, served until 1919. Arthur continued to serve as the Orange City Counsel until 1931. In 1936, he was elected President of the Orange Bar Association.

John Seymour (upper left) in a Photo Booth at Coney Island - 1912

Sometime later my father, John Seymour, made his way into a group photo at Coney Island. It must have been a thrill to get into a picture like this in the early years.

FILE PETITIONS IN UPSTATE DISTRICTS

Delegate Candidates In Both Parties Who Run In Single County.

TRENTON, May 2—The state Republican and Democratic leaders have received today the list of candidates for delegates and alternates nominated by petition in the Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth congressional districts, in which, because these districts lie entirely within a county, the petitions were filed with the county clerk instead of with the secretary of state. The nominations are as follows:

Seventh District.

Wilson delegates—William Hughes, Paterson; Robert G. Dearnley, Passaic.

Wilson alternates—John Boyle, Paterson; James J. Cowley, Passaic.

Taft delegates—Peter Quackenbush, Paterson; John J. Hisler, Passaic.

Taft alternates—Gustave A. Moelisch, Paterson; Samuel G. Dettbarn, Clifton.

Roosevelt delegates—James C. Hazzard, Paterson; Henry C. Whitehead, Passaic.

Roosevelt alternates—Thomas S. Lapsley, Paterson; John Atkinson, Clifton.

La Follette delegates—John K. Tyler, Passaic; Louis E. Cordier, Passaic.

La Follette alternates—William Winda, Passaic; Robert Appleton, Passaic.

Republican unpledged, William Barbour, Paterson.

Ninth District.

Wilson delegates—John F. Stanaway, Newark; Julian A. Gregory, East Orange.

Wilson alternates—John V. Duffy-Clarke, Newark; William F. Hamilton, Orange.

Uninstructed Democrats, opposed to Wilson—Lewis Smith, jr., Newark; Archie B. Seymour, Orange.

Uninstructed alternates opposed to Wilson—Jesse Hahn, Newark; Thomas F. Hobrecht, Newark.

Taft delegates—Charles Dudley, Newark; Clarence H. Kelsey, East Orange.

Taft alternates—C. William Hoffman, Newark; Adam H. Graef, Orange.

Roosevelt delegates—Edward T. Ward, Newark; William A. Lord, Orange.

Roosevelt alternates—Willis L. Brownell, East Orange; Irving K. Taylor, Orange.

La Follette delegates—Andrew J. Peterson, Newark; Joseph Hillenbeck, Newark.

Tenth District.

Wilson delegates—Louis Hood, Newark; Frank A. O'Connor, West Orange.

Wilson alternates—Thomas F. Burning, Newark; Thomas J. Hughes, Montclair.

Uninstructed Democrats opposed to Wilson—James R. Nugent, Newark; Harry F. Barton, Caldwell.

Uninstructed alternates opposed to Wilson—John W. Grice, Newark; George K. Ritchie, Montclair.

Taft delegates—F. Sanford Ross, Newark; Benjamin Ross, Montclair.

Taft alternates—Thomas W. Dobson, Newark; John H. Stevens, South Orange.

Roosevelt delegates—Frank L. Dodge, Newark; Edmund B. Osborne, Montclair.

Roosevelt alternates—Wilbur L. Cleveland, Irvington; Harold J. Howland, Montclair.

La Follette delegate—Frank E. Davenport, Newark.

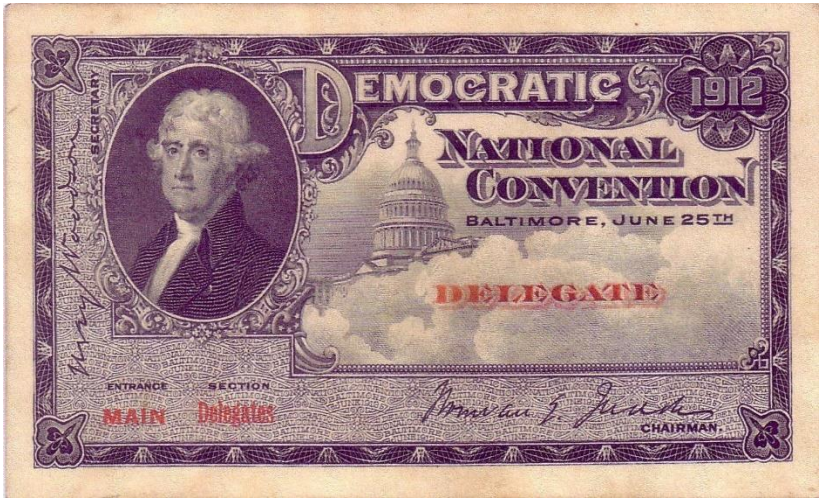
Eleventh District.

Wilson delegates—J. J. Mitterling, Hoboken; Emil Grith, Union Hill.

Wilson alternates—Harry H. Lange, Hoboken; Peter Hoffman, Hoboken.

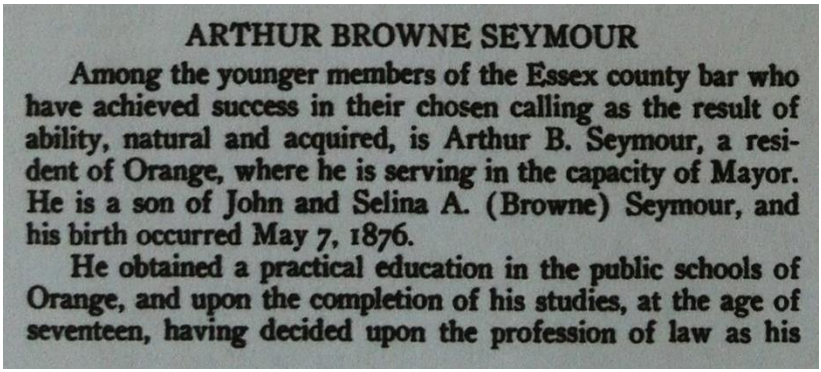
Uninstructed Democrats, opposed to

Delegate Candidates - 1912



Delegate to the 1912 Convention

In 1912, Arthur became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Baltimore from 25 June to 2 July 1912. He supported James Beauchamp (Champ) Clark over New Jersey Governor Woodrow Wilson for the Presidential nomination. Clark was the frontrunner going into the Democratic Convention, but ultimately lost to Wilson.



ARTHUR BROWNE SEYMOUR

Among the younger members of the Essex county bar who have achieved success in their chosen calling as the result of ability, natural and acquired, is Arthur B. Seymour, a resident of Orange, where he is serving in the capacity of Mayor. He is a son of John and Selina A. (Browne) Seymour, and his birth occurred May 7, 1876.

He obtained a practical education in the public schools of Orange, and upon the completion of his studies, at the age of seventeen, having decided upon the profession of law as his

life vocation, entered the office of Nathan C. Horton, of Orange, and under his excellent preceptorship was prepared for admission to the bar, being admitted as an attorney at the June term, 1897. Locating in Orange, he at once entered upon the general practice of his profession, and soon was entrusted with the legal business of a large and influential clientele. An earnest Democrat in politics, Mr. Seymour has labored zealously in behalf of the interests of his party, and his usefulness has been recognized by his election to various offices in the gift of the people. In 1906 he was elected to the Orange common council for a term of three years; in 1908 elected mayor of Orange for a term of two years, and reëlected in 1910 for a similar period of time. This fact is an eloquent testimonial to his popularity in the community and to his efficiency as a public official. He was largely instrumental in the establishment of a municipal lighting plant for Orange, and for seven years served as counsel for the Board of Health of Orange. He is one of the leading citizens of Orange, active and prominent in its social interests, and the center of a wide circle of friends. Mr. Seymour married Justine A. Layare, of Newark, New Jersey, in 1902. Children: Arthur Browne Jr., John and Justine.

Shown above are my grandfather's accomplishments as Mayor. They were published in 1912 by the Lears Historical Publishing Company in the Courts and Lawyers of New Jersey 1661-1912 Volume 3 by Edward Quinton Keasbey.

OCTOBER 6, 1914.

CONGRESS TICKET GAP IS FILLED

Ex-Mayor Seymour of Orange Takes McCoy's Place.

ARCHIBALD MAY RETIRE.

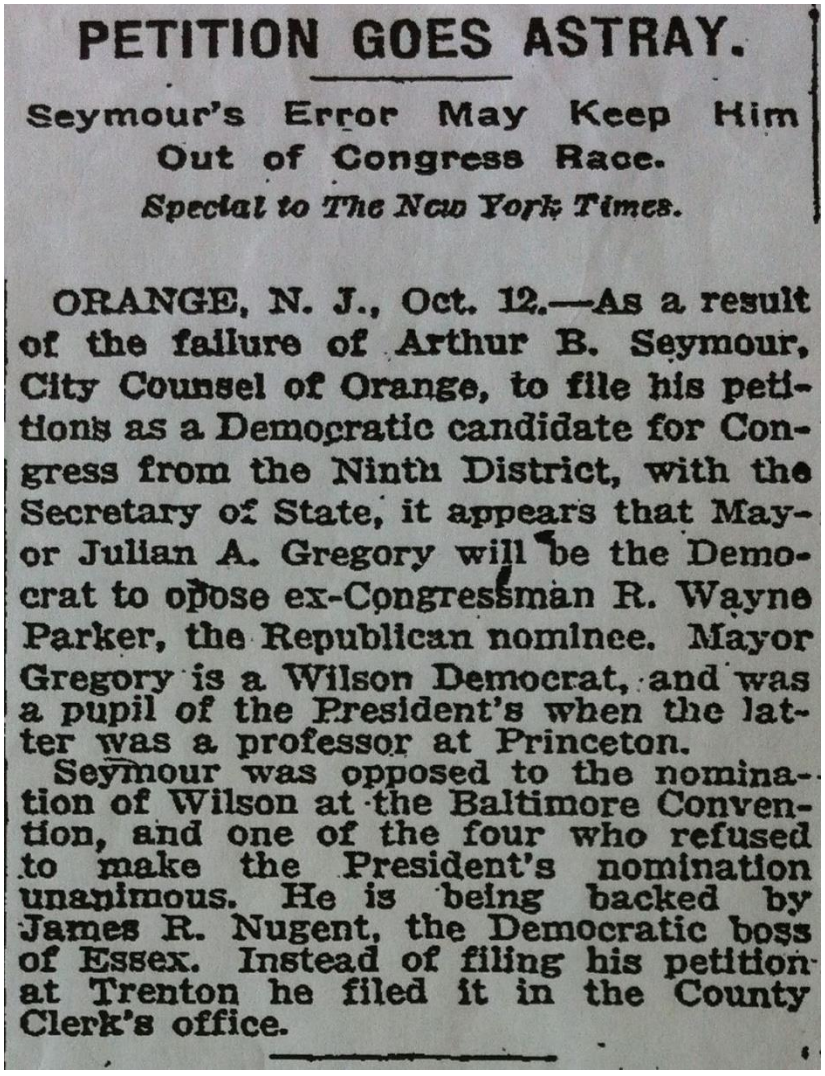
Progressive Candidate For Congress Declares Many Republicans Asked Him to Join in an Effort to Elect Edward W. Gray, Republican Candidate.

Newark, N. J., Oct. 6.—At a meeting in the city hall here by the members of the Democratic county committee it was voted to give the support to former Mayor Arthur H. Seymour of Orange for congress.

Congressman Willis J. Nolan was nominated by the Democrats at the primaries last week, but will not make the race as he has accepted appointment by President Wilson to supervise work parties of the United States.

Arthur H. Archibald, Progressive candidate for congress in the Eighth district, said that he would announce in his weather he would withdraw as a candidate. He will visit many Republicans and asked him to withdraw in favor in an effort to elect Edward W. Gray, the Republican candidate. Mr. Archibald said he would confer with the Progressive friends before withdrawing.

John A. Matthews, Democrat, who filed his petition as a candidate for state senator a few days ago, went to county clerk McDonough himself prior of his withdrawal. Mr. Matthews said that he would support Democratic nominee Richard Hawkins. He said that he had long felt that he continued candidacy might jeopardize the chances for success of the Democratic candidates for congress.



PETITION GOES ASTRAY.

Seymour's Error May Keep Him Out of Congress Race.

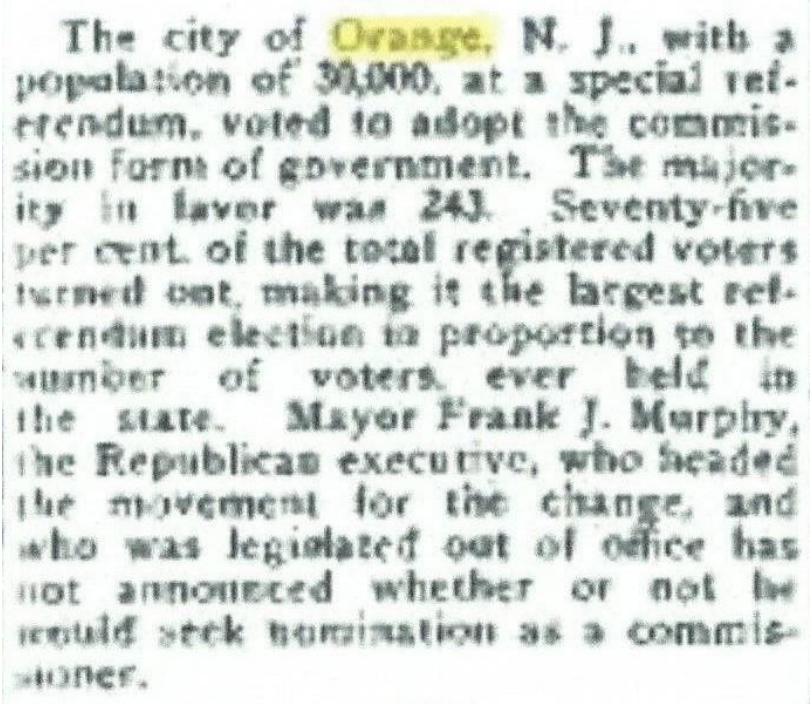
Special to The New York Times.

ORANGE, N. J., Oct. 12.—As a result of the failure of Arthur B. Seymour, City Counsel of Orange, to file his petitions as a Democratic candidate for Congress from the Ninth District, with the Secretary of State, it appears that Mayor Julian A. Gregory will be the Democrat to oppose ex-Congressman R. Wayne Parker, the Republican nominee. Mayor Gregory is a Wilson Democrat, and was a pupil of the President's when the latter was a professor at Princeton.

Seymour was opposed to the nomination of Wilson at the Baltimore Convention, and one of the four who refused to make the President's nomination unanimous. He is being backed by James R. Nugent, the Democratic boss of Essex. Instead of filing his petition at Trenton he filed it in the County Clerk's office.

Bid for Congress

In 1914, Arthur sought a seat in Congress as reported above. He filed his petition as a Democratic candidate from the Ninth District, but was kept out of race since he submitted his documents to the County Clerk's office rather than the State Office in Trenton.



The city of Orange, N. J., with a population of 30,000, at a special referendum, voted to adopt the commission form of government. The majority in favor was 243. Seventy-five per cent. of the total registered voters turned out, making it the largest referendum election in proportion to the number of voters ever held in the state. Mayor Frank J. Murphy, the Republican executive, who headed the movement for the change, and who was legislated out of office has not announced whether or not he would seek nomination as a commissioner.

New form of Government 1914

There are three basic types of city governments; mayor-council, commission and council-manager. Before 1914, Orange had a mayor-council form of government.

Catherine (Kitty) Seymour - 1914

Catherine (Kitty) was attending the Drake School of Business in Elizabeth, New Jersey about the time this photo was taken. The school closed in 2015.

1915 New Jersey Census

CENSUS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

1915

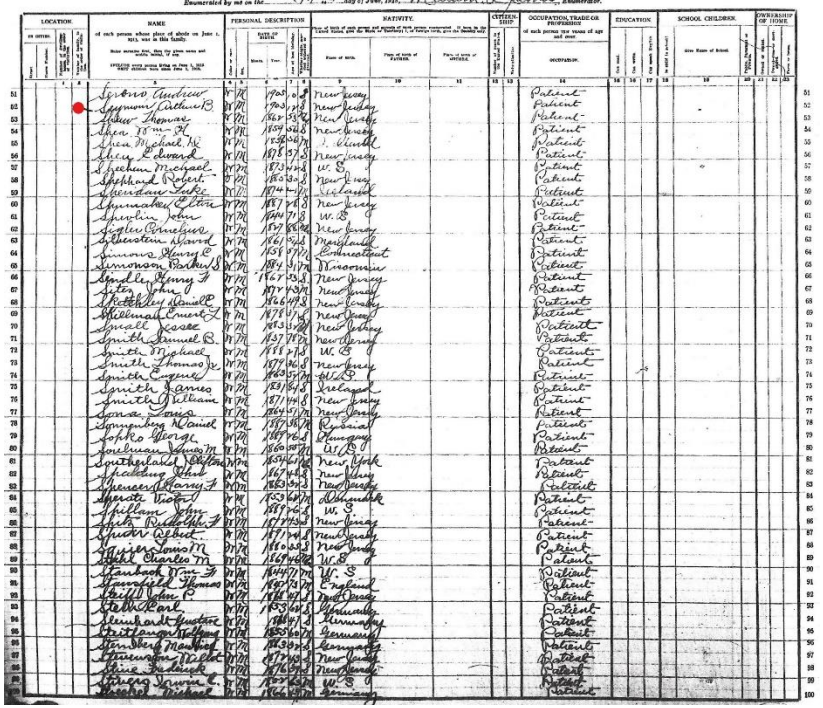
1915 New Jersey Census for Arthur Seymour #1

CENSUS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

1915

1915 New Jersey Census for Arthur Seymour #2

As shown on this census, John and Justin were now attending Park Avenue Elementary School. Unfortunately, 1915 was the last year New Jersey had a state census.



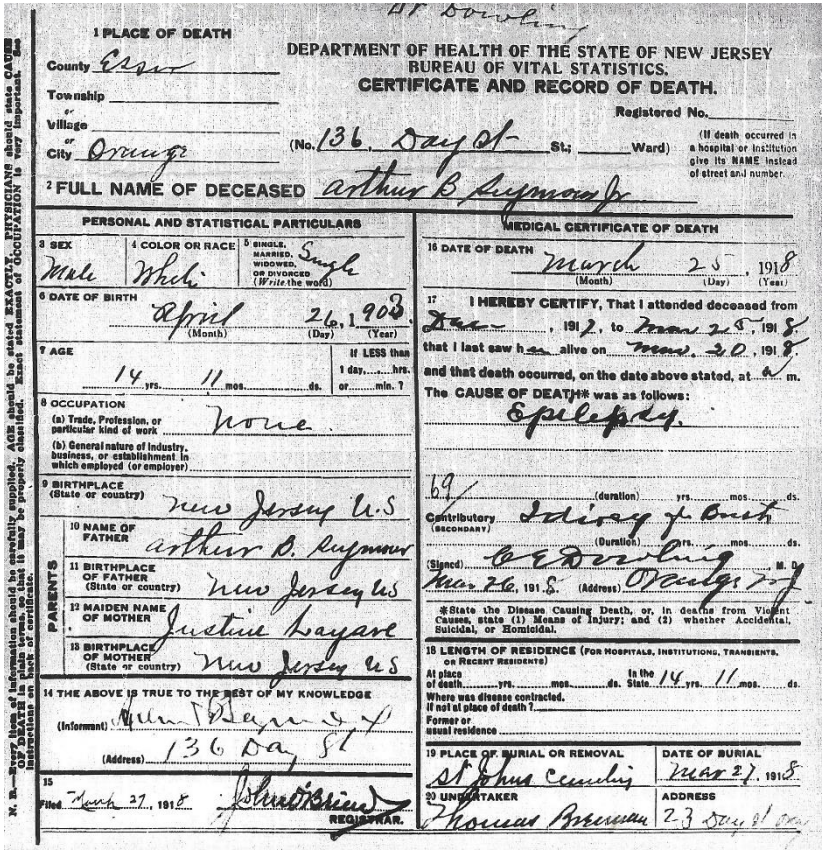
County Essex
City
Township or other division of county Township of Cedar Grove
Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division.

1915

Supervisor's District
Enumeration District No. 1
Sheet No. 16
Name of Institution Essex County Hospital for Insane
Ward of city Overbrook
Enumerated by me on the 14th day of June, 1915. Millard L. Jacobus, Enumerator.

1915 New Jersey Census for Arthur B. Seymour, Jr.

Uncle Arthur Seymour, Jr's Death



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

Registered No.

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Essex
Township
or Village
or City Orange (No. 136 Day St St.; Ward) (If death occurred in a hospital or institution give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2 FULL NAME OF DECEASED Arthur B. Seymour Jr.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Male
4 COLOR OR RACE White
5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word) Single
6 DATE OF BIRTH April (Month) 26, (Day) 1903 (Year)
7 AGE 14 yrs. 11 mos. ds. If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work None.
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) New Jersey U.S
PARENTS
10 NAME OF FATHER Arthur B. Seymour
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) New Jersey US
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Justine Layare
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) New Jersey US
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Informant) Arthur B Seymour Jr
(Address) 136 Day St
15 Filed March 27, 1918 John O'Brien REGISTRAR.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

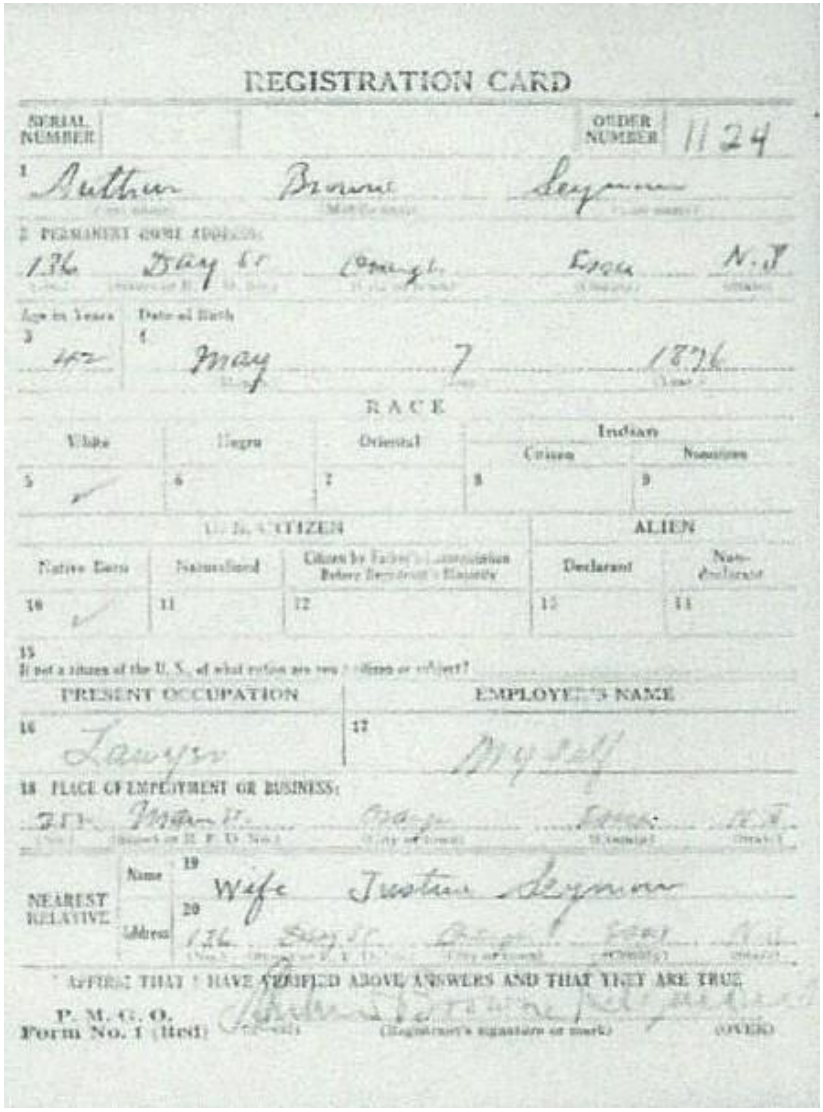
16 DATE OF DEATH March (Month) 25 (Day), 1918 (Year)
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Dec, 1917, to March 25, 1918, that I last saw h alive on March 20, 1918, and that death occurred, on the date above stated, at a m.
The CAUSE OF DEATH** was as follows:
Epilepsy.
69 (duration) yrs. mos. ds.
Contributory (SECONDARY) Infirmity of Body (Duration) yrs. mos. ds.
(Signed) C E Dowling M. D.
March 26, 1918. (Address) Orange N J
*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.
18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS)
At place of death yrs. mos. ds. In the State 14 yrs. 11 mos. ds.
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?
Former or usual residence
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL St Johns Cemetery DATE OF BURIAL March 27, 1918
20 UNDERTAKER Thomas Brennan ADDRESS 23 Day St Ora

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. Use unfamiliar abbreviations.

Arthur Seymour, Jr. Death Certificate

Arthur, Jr. died at home at 136 Day Street of epilepsy on 25 Mar 1918 at age 14. He was subject to seizures from birth and was kept out of the public view. Little is known about Arthur, Jr., except he was a patient at the Essex County Hospital for the Insane in Cedar Grove at the time of the 1915 New Jersey Census. Based on his death certificate, he was to be buried at St. John's Cemetery He was not buried in the family plot. After an exhaustive search of the records, his grave has never been found.

WWI Draft Registration - Arthur B. Seymour



REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER | ORDER NUMBER 1124

1 Arthur Browne Seymour

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS
136 Bay St Orange Essex N.J.

3 Age in Years 42 | 4 Date of Birth May 7 1876

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
			Citizen	Nonciti
5 ✓	6	7	8	9

U. S. CITIZEN | ALIEN

Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Reaching Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
10 ✓	11	12	13	14

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

PRESENT OCCUPATION	EMPLOYER'S NAME
16 Lawyer	17 Myself

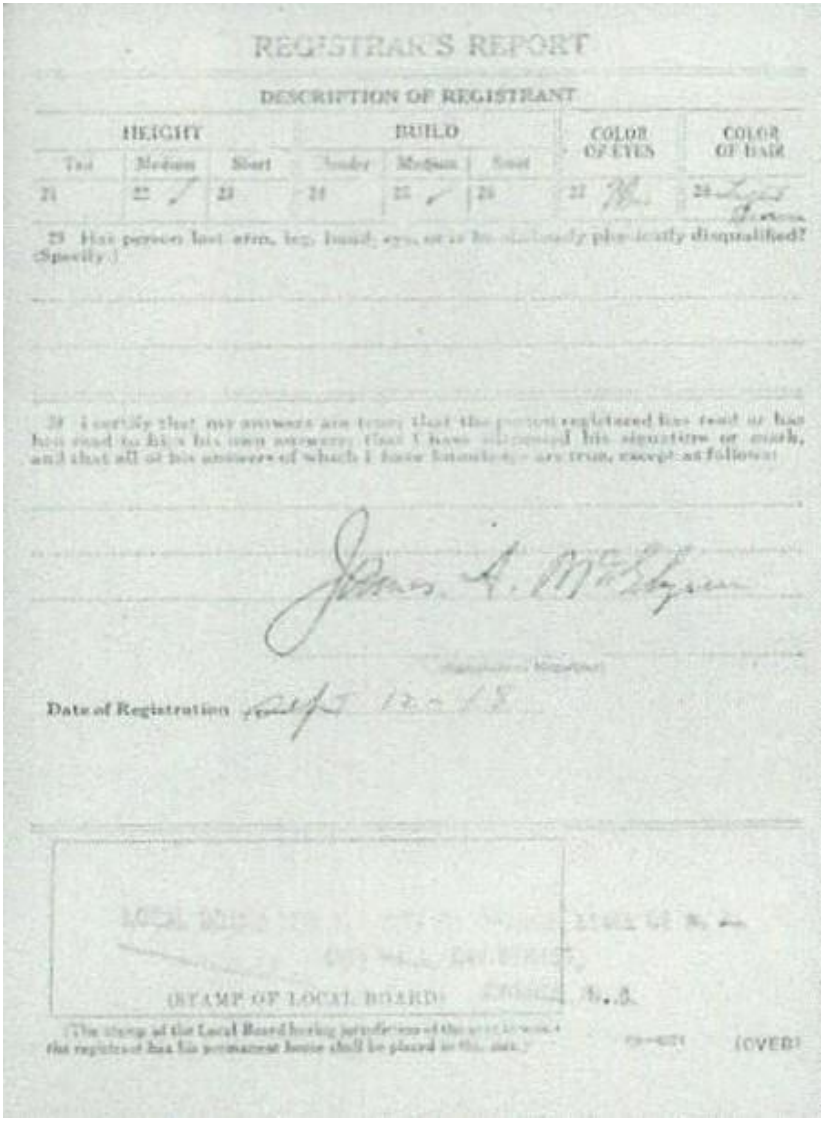
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS:
733 Main St. Orange Essex N.J.

NEAREST RELATIVE
Name 19 Wife Justine Seymour
Address 20 136 Bay St. Orange Essex N.J.

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

P. M. C. O. Form No. 1 (Red) (Registrant's signature or mark) (OVER)

World War I Draft Registration (Front)


REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Short	Stender	Medium	Stout		
21	22 ✓	23	24	25 ✓	26	27 Blue	28 Light

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he otherwise physically disqualified? (Specify.)

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

James A. [illegible]

Date of Registration [illegible] 12-12-18

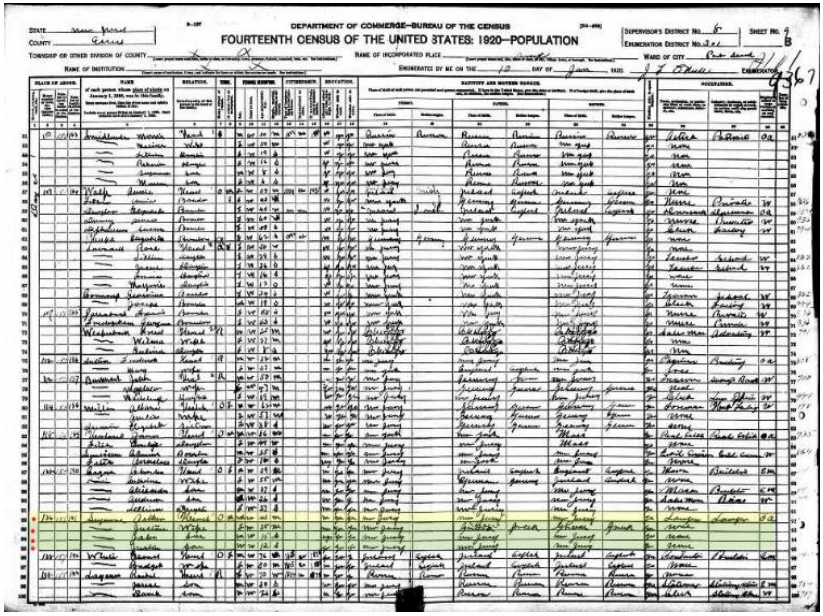
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(OVER)

World War I Draft Registration (Back)

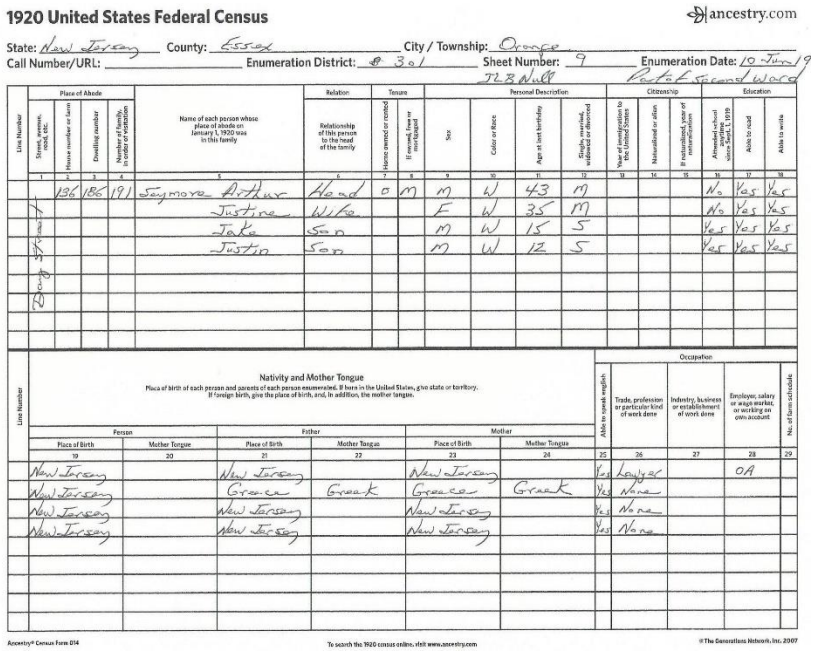
Although an armistice was about to be signed, Arthur was required to register for the draft in September 1918.

1920 Federal Census



1920 Census for Arthur Seymour

Since they had no occupation, John and Justin were likely still attending school.



1920 United States Federal Census — ancestry.com

State: New Jersey County: Essex City / Township: Orange
Call Number/URL: _____ Enumeration District: 301 Sheet Number: 9 Enumeration Date: 10 Jun 19
JZB Null Part of Second Ward

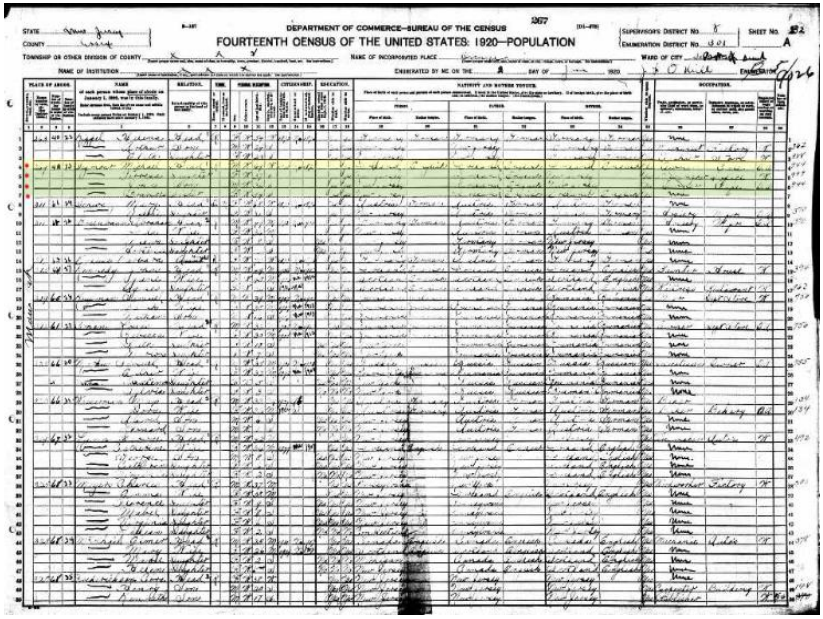
Line Number	Place of Abode: Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number or farm	Dwelling number	Number of family, in order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920 was in this family	Relation: Relationship of this person to the head of the family	Tenure: Home owned or rented	Tenure: If owned, free or mortgaged	Personal Description: Sex	Color or Race	Age at last birthday	Single, married, widowed or divorced	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the United States	Citizenship: Naturalized or alien	Citizenship: If naturalized, year of naturalization	Education: Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1919	Education: Able to read	Education: Able to write
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
		136	186	191	Seymore Arthur	Head	O	M	M	W	43	M				No	Yes	Yes
					Justine	Wife			F	W	35	M				No	Yes	Yes
					Jake	Son			M	W	15	S				Yes	Yes	Yes
					Justin	Son			M	W	12	S				Yes	Yes	Yes
	Day																	

Line Number	Nativity and Mother Tongue: Person — Place of Birth	Person — Mother Tongue	Father — Place of Birth	Father — Mother Tongue	Mother — Place of Birth	Mother — Mother Tongue	Occupation: Able to speak English	Trade, profession or particular kind of work done	Industry, business or establishment of work done	Employer, salary or wage worker, or working on own account	No. of farm schedule
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	New Jersey		New Jersey		New Jersey		Yes	Lawyer		OA	
	New Jersey		Greece	Greek	Greece	Greek	Yes	None			
	New Jersey		New Jersey		New Jersey		Yes	None			
	New Jersey		New Jersey		New Jersey		Yes	None			

Ancestry® Census Form D14 — To search the 1920 census online, visit www.ancestry.com — ©The Generations Network, Inc. 2007

1920 Family Group Sheet for Arthur Seymour

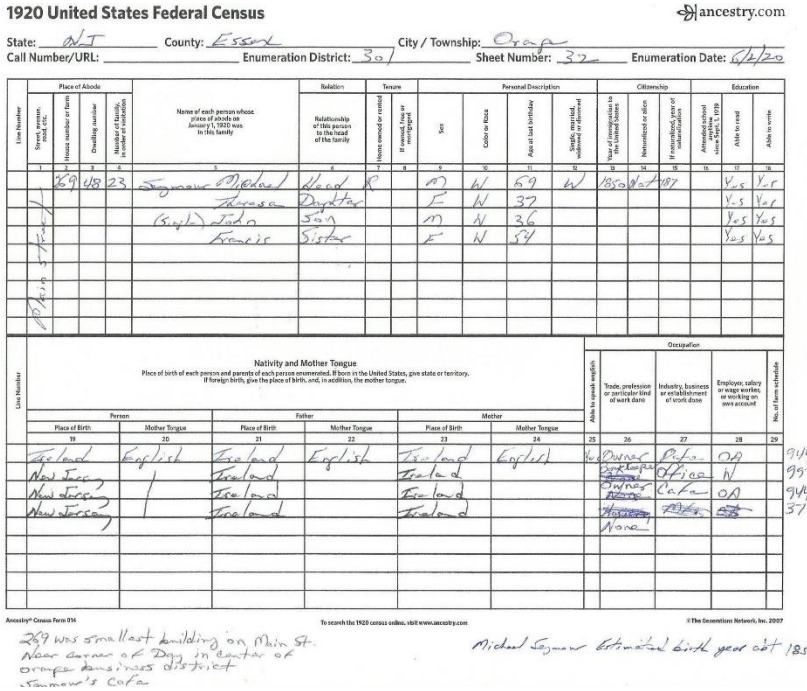
In 1920, my grandfather, Arthur, was still residing at 136 North Day Street. My father, John (Jake) and my uncle, Justin, were in school at Park Avenue Elementary and Orange High School.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

1920 Census for Michael Seymour


1920 United States Federal Census

ancestry.com

State: NJ County: Essex City / Township: Orange

Call Number/URL: _____ Enumeration District: 30 Sheet Number: 32 Enumeration Date: 6/2/20

Line Number	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number or farm	Dwelling number	Number of family, counted in order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920 was in this family	Relation: Relationship of this person to the head of the family	Tenure: Home owned or rented	Tenure: If owned, free or mortgaged	Personal Description: Sex	Personal Description: Color or Race	Personal Description: Age at last birthday	Personal Description: Single, married, widowed or divorced	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the United States	Citizenship: Naturalized or alien	Citizenship: If naturalized, year of naturalization	Education: Attended school since Sept. 1, 1919	Education: Able to read	Education: Able to write
1		369	48	23	Seymour Michael	Head	R		M	W	69	W	1850	Nat	1887		Yes	Yes
					Theresa	Daughter			F	W	37						Yes	Yes
					(Eight) John	Son			M	W	36						Yes	Yes
					Francis	Sister			F	W	54						Yes	Yes

Line Number	Nativity and Mother Tongue: Person: Place of Birth	Person: Mother Tongue	Father: Place of Birth	Father: Mother Tongue	Mother: Place of Birth	Mother Tongue	Able to speak English	Occupation: Trade, profession or particular kind of work done	Occupation: Industry, business or establishment of work done	Occupation: Employer, salary or wage worker, or working on own account	No. of farm schedule
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Ireland	English	Ireland	English	Ireland	English	Yes	Owner	Cafe	OA	944
	New Jersey		Ireland		Ireland			Partner	Cafe	W	997
	New Jersey		Ireland		Ireland			Owner	Cafe	OA	944
	New Jersey		Ireland		Ireland			Manager	Cafe	OA	370
								None			

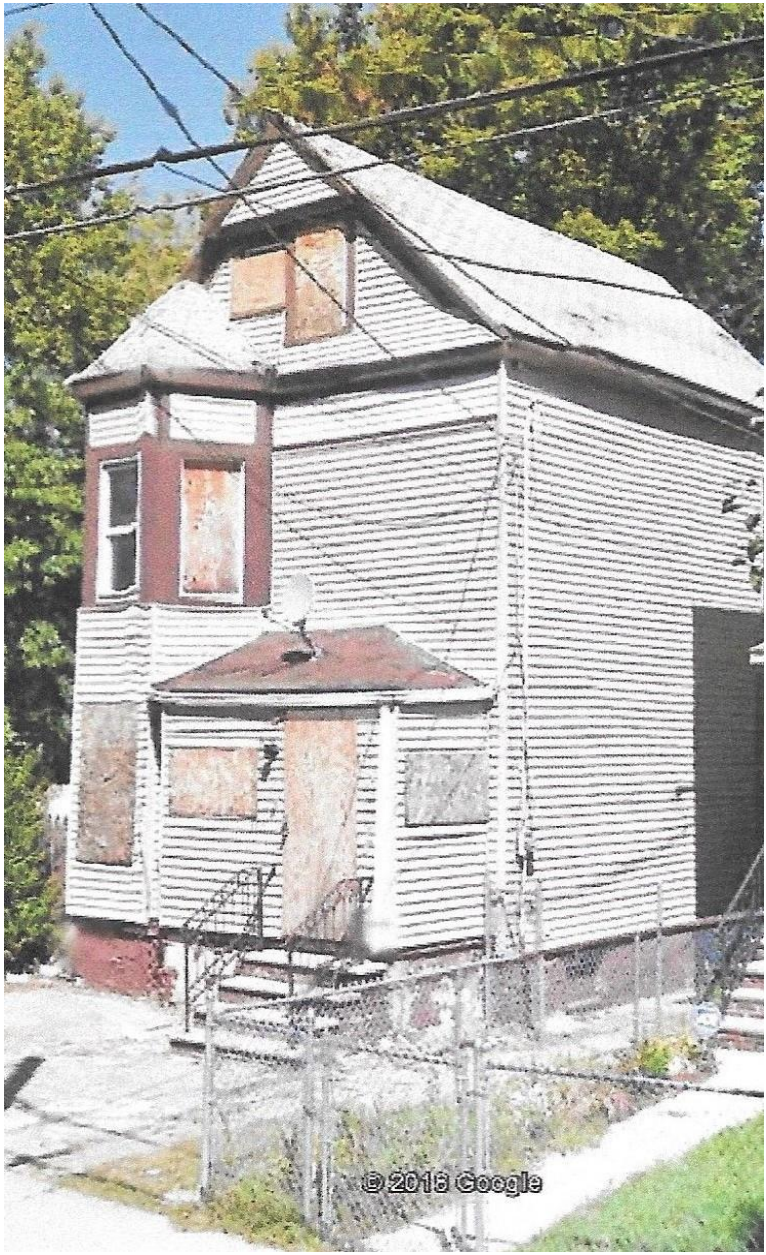
Ancestry® Census Form 014 To search the 1920 census online, visit www.ancestry.com ©The Generations Network, Inc. 2007

369 was smallest building on Main St. Near corner of Day in center of Orange business district. Seymour's Cafe

Michael Seymour Estimated birth year abt 1851

1920 Family Group Sheet for Michael Seymour

Michael was still living on Main Street. "Seymour House" continued in operation until his death from exhaustion following an operation in 1928. Michael's sister Fanny never married and assisted with housekeeping duties at "Seymour House." She lived above the cafe until it was sold. She then moved to 333 Hawthorne Street and stayed with Theresa and John until her death from chronic myocarditis on 1 June 1931.



333 Hawthorne Street, Orange, New Jersey

Atlantic City Boardwalk - 1920s

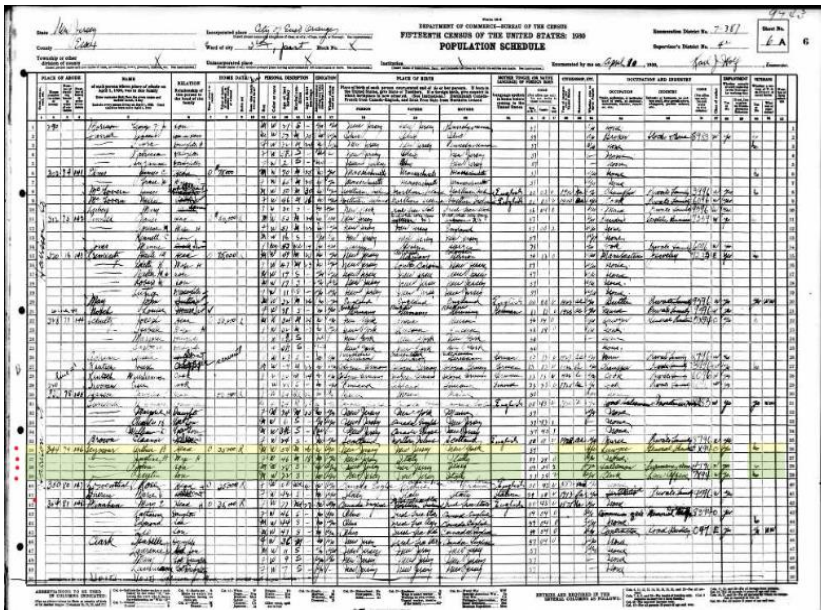
Arthur Seymour & Michael Consistre (top row)

Justine (right) & her sisters Marianna (Nell) Parsons & Edna Consistre (bottom row)

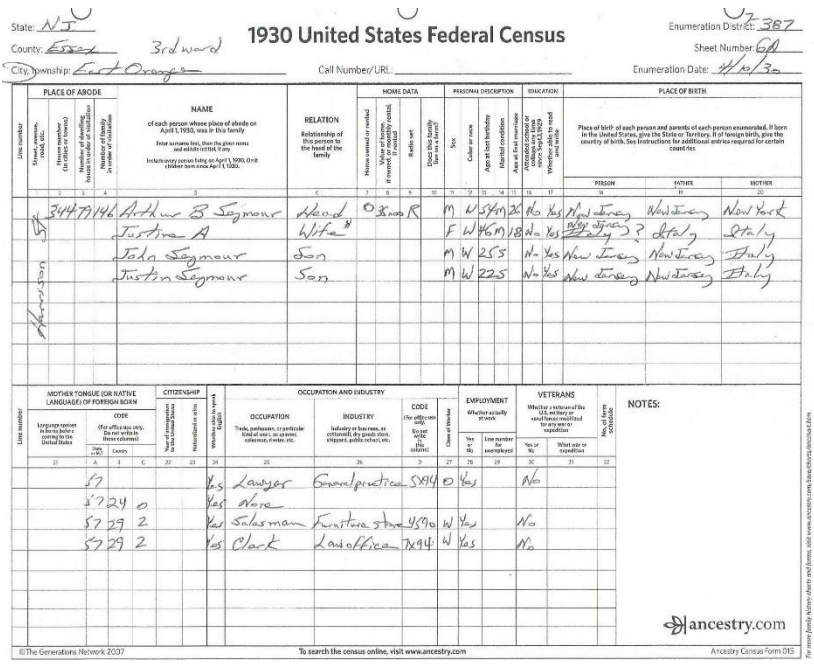
Atlantic City Boardwalk - 1924

Arthur Seymour - 1930s

1930 Federal Census



1930 Census for Arthur Seymour


1930 United States Federal Census

State: NJ
County: Essex 3rd ward
City, township: East Orange
Call Number/URL:
Enumeration District: 387
Sheet Number: 6A
Enumeration Date: 4/10/30

Line number	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number (in cities or towns)	Number of dwelling house in order of visitation	Number of family in order of visitation	NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930.	RELATION Relationship of this person to the head of the family	HOME DATA: Home owned or rented	HOME DATA: Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	HOME DATA: Radio set	HOME DATA: Does this family have a radio set?	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Sex	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Color or race	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Age at last birthday	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Marital condition	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Age at first marriage	EDUCATION: Attended school or college at any time since Sept. 1, 1929	EDUCATION: Whether able to read and write	PLACE OF BIRTH: Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the State or Territory. If of foreign birth, give the country of birth. See instructions for additional entries required for certain countries: PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	344	7	1	46	Arthur B Seymour	Head	O	$8000	R		M	W	54	M	24	No	Yes	New Jersey	New Jersey	New York
					Justine A	Wife					F	W	46	M	18	No	Yes	New Jersey	Italy	Italy
					John Seymour	Son					M	W	25	S		No	Yes	New Jersey	New Jersey	Italy
					Justin Seymour	Son					M	W	22	S		No	Yes	New Jersey	New Jersey	Italy

Line number	MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE) OF FOREIGN BORN: Language spoken in home before coming to the United States	CODE (For office use only. Do not write in these columns)	CITIZENSHIP: Year of immigration to the United States	Naturalized or alien	Whether able to speak English	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY: OCCUPATION Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, salesman, trucker, etc.	INDUSTRY Industry or business, as cotton mill, public school, shipyard, public school, etc.	CODE (For office use only. Do not write in this column)	Class of Worker	EMPLOYMENT: Whether actually at work: Yes or No	Line number for unemployed	VETERANS: Whether a veteran of the U.S. military or naval forces: Yes or No	What war or expedition	No. of Farm Schedule	NOTES:
21		A 3 C	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32		
					Yes	Lawyer	General practice	5914	O	Yes		No			
		7 24 0			Yes	None									
		5 29 2			Yes	Salesman	Furniture store	7590	W	Yes		No			
		5 29 2			Yes	Clerk	Law office	7994	W	Yes		No			

ancestry.com

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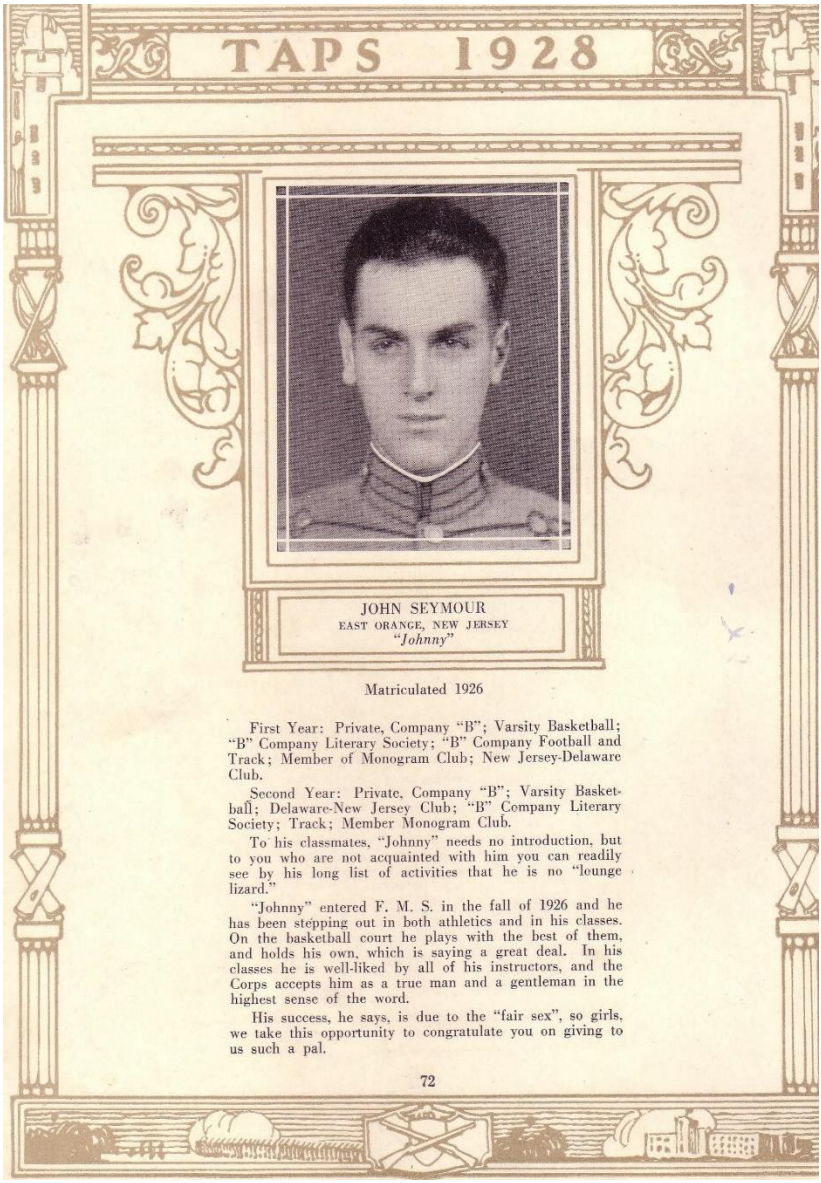
1930 Family Group Sheet for Arthur Seymour

In 1930, Arthur and his family were residing at 344 South Harrison Street in East Orange. In the 1926 City Directory, they were living at this address. In 1925, they lived at 196 South Harrison Street, in 1924, they lived at 202 North Day Street, in 1916 at 136 North Day, in 1908 at 159 North Day and at North 155 Day in Orange before 1908.

Their home at 344 Harrison Street is shown below in winter as well as summer.

344 South Harrison Street, East Orange, New Jersey


TAPS 1928

JOHN SEYMOUR
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY
"Johnny"

Matriculated 1926

First Year: Private, Company "B"; Varsity Basketball; "B" Company Literary Society; "B" Company Football and Track; Member of Monogram Club; New Jersey-Delaware Club.

Second Year: Private, Company "B"; Varsity Basketball; Delaware-New Jersey Club; "B" Company Literary Society; Track; Member Monogram Club.

To his classmates, "Johnny" needs no introduction, but to you who are not acquainted with him you can readily see by his long list of activities that he is no "lounge lizard."

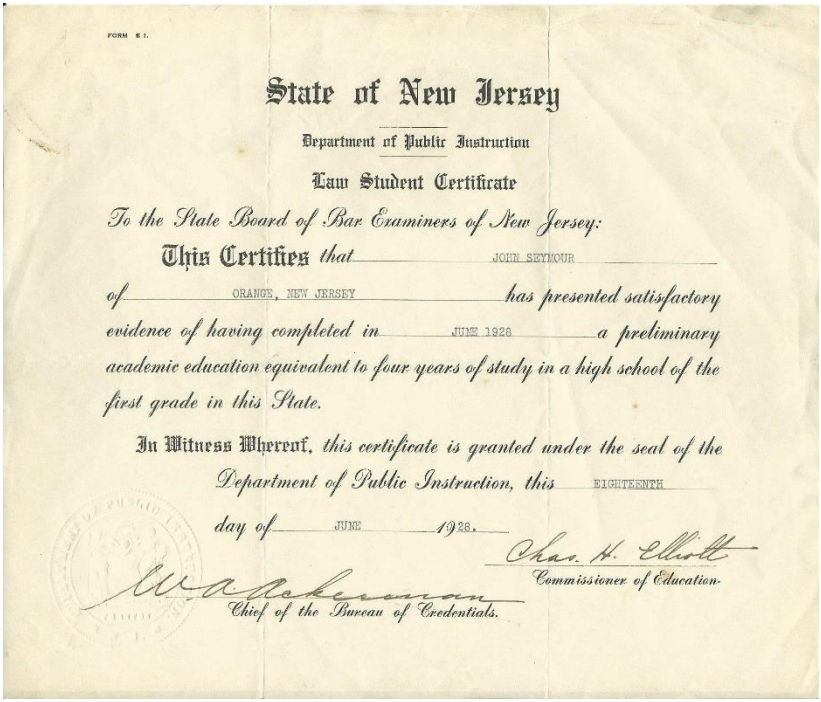
"Johnny" entered F. M. S. in the fall of 1926 and he has been stepping out in both athletics and in his classes. On the basketball court he plays with the best of them, and holds his own, which is saying a great deal. In his classes he is well-liked by all of his instructors, and the Corps accepts him as a true man and a gentleman in the highest sense of the word.

His success, he says, is due to the "fair sex", so girls, we take this opportunity to congratulate you on giving to us such a pal.

72

Fishburne Military School Yearbook

In 1926, my father enrolled at Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Virginia, graduating in 1928.



FORM E 1.

State of New Jersey

Department of Public Instruction

Law Student Certificate

To the State Board of Bar Examiners of New Jersey:

This Certifies that JOHN SEYMOUR

of ORANGE, NEW JERSEY has presented satisfactory evidence of having completed in JUNE 1928 a preliminary academic education equivalent to four years of study in a high school of the first grade in this State.

In Witness Whereof, this certificate is granted under the seal of the Department of Public Instruction, this EIGHTEENTH day of JUNE 1928.

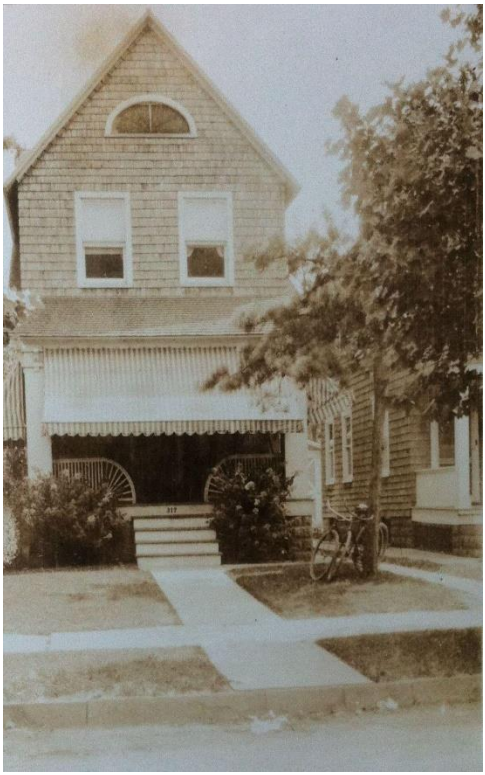
Chas. H. Elliott
Commissioner of Education.

W. A. Ackerman
Chief of the Bureau of Credentials.

New Jersey Law Student Certificate

Pop also received a New Jersey Law Student Certificate, however, he went on to a successful career as a salesman.

His brother, Justin, was a 1929 graduate of the New Jersey Law School. After passing the New Jersey Bar exam in 1929, he joined my grandfather in forming the law firm of Seymour & Seymour at 284 Main Street in Orange. The law office was originally located at 252 Main Street.



317 Main Street, Bradley Beach, New Jersey

My grandparents loved visiting the Jersey Shore. Above is a photo of their home at 317 Main Street in Bradley Beach circa 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Seymour of Orange, were in town yesterday looking over the improvements being made to their recently purchased bungalow at 421 Washington avenue.

Spring Lake Gazette

In 1937, my grandparents purchased a bungalow at 421 Washington Avenue in Spring Lake as shown above.

A. Seymour, Dean of Bar

Former Orange Mayor, 75, Long an Active Democrat

Arthur B. Seymour, dean of the Orange bar and former mayor and city counsel of Orange, died yesterday at the home of his son, Justin W. Seymour, 3 Belgrade terrace, West Orange, after an illness of three months. Mr. Seymour, whose home was at 344 South Harrison street, East Orange, was 75.

ARTHUR B. SEYMOUR

Mr. Seymour was born in Orange May 7, 1876, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Seymour. His father was long active in Orange Democratic political circles, having been an alderman and president of the old Orange Common Council.

Mr. Seymour was graduated from Orange High School and studied law under the late Nathan C. Horton, and later under Johnson & German of Newark, being admitted to the bar in 1897. He took an early interest in politics and in 1905 was elected an alderman from Orange's Fifth Ward.

Twice Elected Mayor

He was elected mayor in 1908, and again in 1910. His defeat for a third term in 1912 by Frank J. Murray was the first time in 14 years that a Republican mayor was elected. Two years later he defeated the late Julian A. Gregory, former East Orange mayor, for the Democratic nomination for the then Ninth Congressional District, but was unsuccessful in the General Election.

The year following his city defeat by Murray for the mayoralty, he was named city counsel, a post he held until 1921.

He was a delegate to the 1912 Democratic National Convention in Baltimore which nominated Woodrow Wilson for his first term. Mr. Seymour, a Smith-Nugent adherent, supported the late Champ Clark for the nomination.

He was elected president of the Orange Bar Association in 1936. He was given a testimonial dinner by the association in 1947 in honor of his completion of 50 years as a lawyer in Orange. He was a former Supreme Court commissioner and a former special master in Chancery.

Mr. Seymour leaves his wife, Mrs. Justine A. Layare Seymour; another son, John G. of Bloomfield; two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Higgins of Schenectady, N. Y., and Mrs. Marguerite McNamara of Verona, and six grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 9:30 A. M. Tuesday from the Weatherhead Funeral Home, 126 Main street, Orange, to Blessed Sacrament Church, East Orange, where a solemn high mass of requiem will be offered at 10. Burial will be in St. John's Cemetery, Orange.

Arthur Seymour Obituary

Grandpa Seymour died at age 75 on 15 February 1952. He is buried in St. John's Cemetery. His last will and testament is shown below.

In the name of God Amen:

I, Arthur B. Seymour, being of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, do hereby make, publish and declare this instrument as and for my last will and testament hereby revoking any former will made by me.

First:- After the payment of my debts, I give, devise and bequeath all my property and estate, of whatsoever kind and wheresoever situate to my beloved wife, Justine A. Seymour, to her, her heirs and assigns forever; and I hereby appoint my wife, guardian of any minor children of ours who may survive me. I also nominate and appoint my said wife sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Ninth day of April Nineteen hundred and fifteen

Arthur B. Seymour

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Arthur B. Seymour as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses

William A. Calhoun - Orange N.J.
Ralph E. Giordano 55 Centre St. Orange, N.J.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, }
COUNTY OF ESSEX. } ss: Ralph E. Giordano

one of the witnesses to the annexed writing purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Arthur B. Seymour the testator therein named, deceased, being duly sworn on his oath, says that he saw the testator sign and seal the said annexed writing, and heard him publish, pronounce and declare the same as and for his last Will and Testament.

That at the time of the doing thereof the said testator was of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, as far as this deponent knows and verily believes; that William A. Calhoun the other subscribing witness thereto, was present at the same time with this deponent when the said will was signed by the said testator and by him published and declared as and for his last Will and Testament as aforesaid; and that the said William A. Calhoun and deponent subscribed their names to said Will as witnesses in the presence of said testator and of each other, at the request of said testator.

Sworn April 18 19 52, before me, } Ralph E. Giordano
Raymond A. Tolt
Special Probate Clerk }

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, }
COUNTY OF ESSEX. } ss:

Justine A. Seymour the Executrix in the annexed writing named, being duly sworn on her oath, says, the annexed writing contains the true last Will and Testament of Arthur B. Seymour the testator therein named, deceased, as far as she knows and verily believes; that she will, as the Executrix thereof, well and truly perform the same, first by paying the debts of said deceased, and then the legacies therein specified, as far as the goods, chattels and credits of said deceased will thereunto extend, and the law charge her; that she will when lawfully required make and exhibit unto the Surrogate's Office of the County of Essex a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the said goods, chattels and credits as far as the same have or shall come to her possession or knowledge or to the possession of any other person or persons for her use, with her knowledge; and that she will well and truly account when thereunto lawfully required, and that said testator died February 15, 1952.

Sworn April 18 19 52 before me } Justine A. Seymour
Raymond A. Tolt
Special Probate Clerk }

3

ESSEX COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT

In the Matter of the Probate of the Alleged Will of
Arthur B. Seymour
Deceased.

On Complaint for Probate

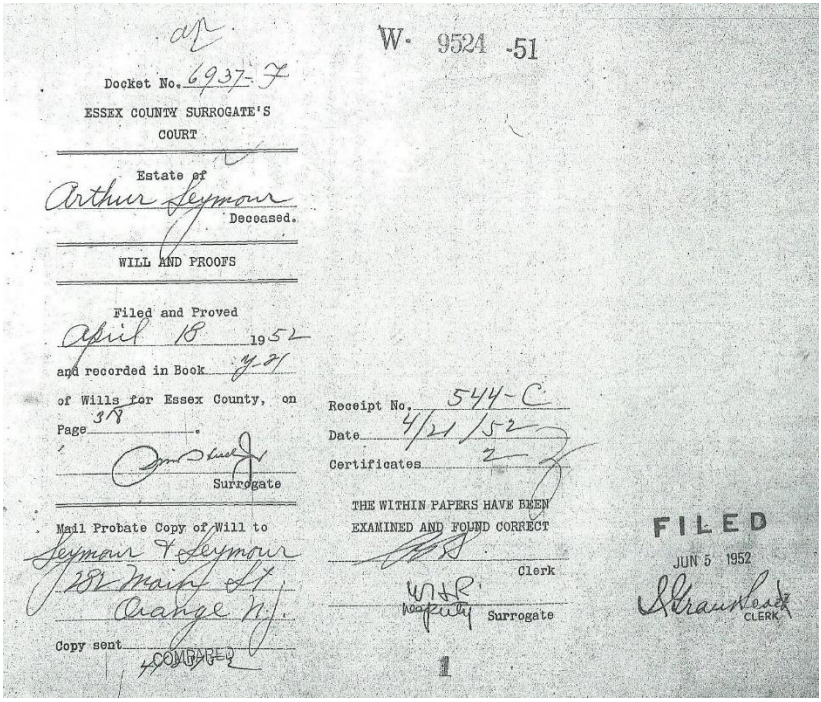
JUDGMENT

On reading and filing the complaint of Justine A. Seymour for the probate of the Last Will and Testament of Arthur B. Seymour deceased, and for Letters Testamentary thereon, and the Surrogate having inquired into the circumstances and taken proof, and being satisfied of the genuineness of the Will produced, the validity of its execution and competency of the testator, and it further appearing that the said testator died on the 15th day of February, Nineteen Hundred and fifty two and more than ten days ago, and that no caveat has been filed against the probate of said Will, and that no neglect to prove said Will within forty days after the death of the testator has been shown;

It is thereupon, on this 21st day of April, Nineteen Hundred and fifty two adjudged that the instrument offered for probate in this matter be and the same hereby is established as the Last Will and Testament of the said Arthur B. Seymour deceased, and that the same be and hereby is admitted to probate.

It is further adjudged that Letters Testamentary thereon be issued to Justine A Seymour the Executrix named in said Will upon her qualifying as such Executrix.

WILLIAM HUCK, JR.
Surrogate
BY William Hewson
DEPUTY SURROGATE



W. 9524 -51

Docket No. 6937-F

ESSEX COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT

Estate of
Arthur Seymour
Deceased.

WILL AND PROOFS

Filed and Proved
April 15 1952
and recorded in Book 427
of Wills for Essex County, on
Page 318

Surrogate

Mail Probate Copy of Will to
Seymour & Seymour
258 Main St.
Orange N.J.

Copy sent COMPARED

Receipt No. 544-C
Date 4/21/52
Certificates 2

THE WITHIN PAPERS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT

Clerk

Surrogate

FILED
JUN 5 1952
CLERK

1

Grandma Seymour 1883-1966

Grandma Seymour April 1903

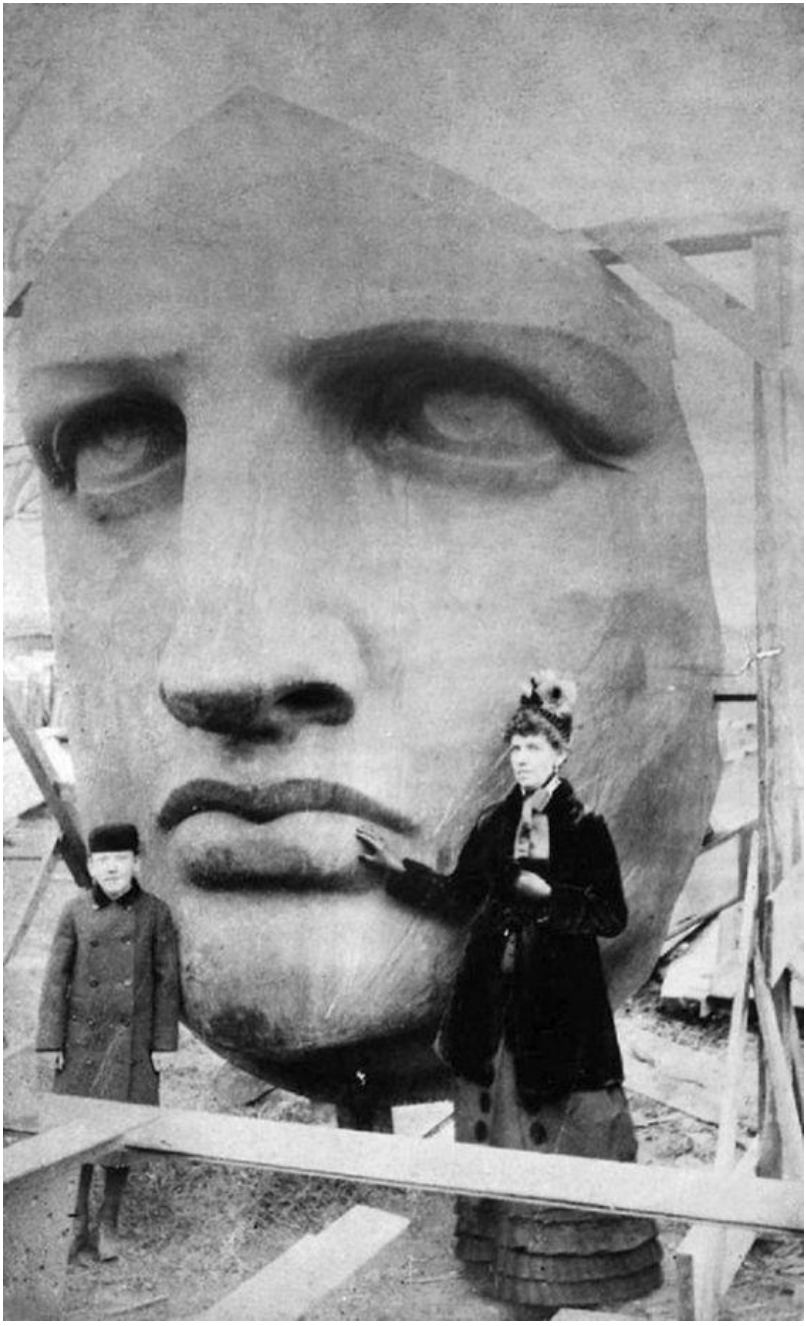
I had only two relatives alive during my lifetime who were born in the "old country," Grandma Guistina (Justine) Seymour and her older sister Marianna (Nell). I never knew this until my retirement years, when I discovered my passion for genealogy.

Grandma's Arrival in America

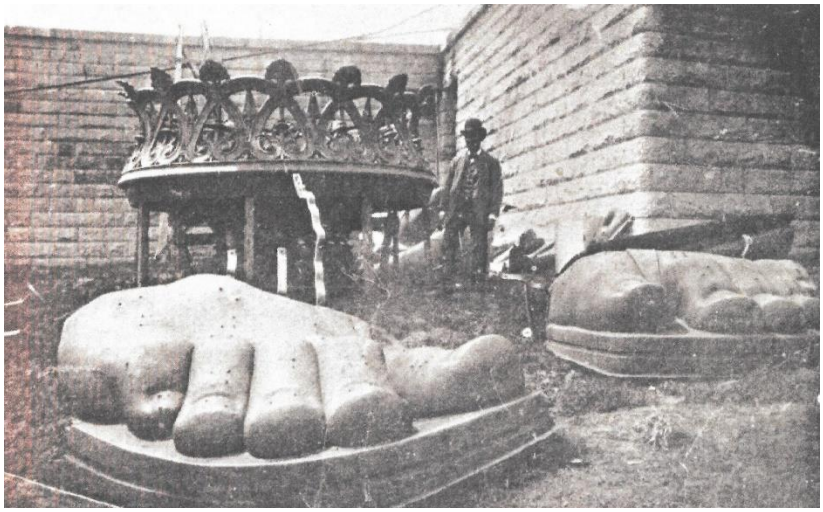
Grandma was only two years old and Nell was ten, when they arrived in New York from Naples, Italy on the steamship SS Alexandria in October 1885.

Grandma's Half-Uncle Angelo Macri - 1903

Accompanying Grandma was her mother, Roseangela, her half-brother, Angelo Macri and her older sister, Marianna (Nell). Rosangela was illiterate and spoke little English. Grandma's father, Angelo Lepera, had arrived earlier to seek employment and was living in Newark, New Jersey.



Face of the Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island - 1885



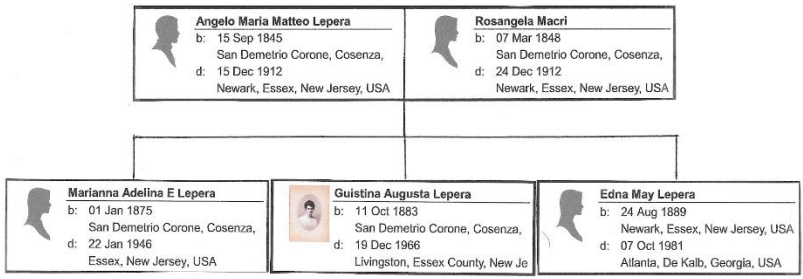
Feet and Torch of the Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island - 1885

Parts of the Statue of Liberty, dedicated in October 1886, were already on Bedloe's Island in New York harbor when Grandma arrived.

Discovering Grandma's Beginnings

Growing up, it never occurred to me to ask about the ethnicity of Grandma's family. They were all Americans. Her birthplace was recorded as Greece and Italy on the 1900 and 1910 census. Her Layare surname was neither Greek or Italian and she never lived in an Italian neighborhood. In fact, I don't believe Grandma was ever fully cognizant of her origins.

On the other hand, Grandma's sister, Nell, remembered some of the family history and passed it onto her daughter, Nina. The names and places were general, but the dates were very specific.


Angelo Maria Matteo Lepera
b: 15 Sep 1845
San Demetrio Corone, Cosenza,
d: 15 Dec 1912
Newark, Essex, New Jersey, USA
Rosangela Macri
b: 07 Mar 1848
San Demetrio Corone, Cosenza,
d: 24 Dec 1912
Newark, Essex, New Jersey, USA
Marianna Adelina E Lepera
b: 01 Jan 1875
San Demetrio Corone, Cosenza,
d: 22 Jan 1946
Essex, New Jersey, USA
Guistina Augusta Lepera
b: 11 Oct 1883
San Demetrio Corone, Cosenza,
d: 19 Dec 1966
Livingston, Essex County, New Je
Edna May Lepera
b: 24 Aug 1889
Newark, Essex, New Jersey, USA
d: 07 Oct 1981
Atlanta, De Kalb, Georgia, USA

Lepera Relationship Chart

My sister Justine (Tina) was able to record some information from Nina on a napkin at the dinner table. When Tina gave me this information, it served as a catalyst for a genealogy research project that was challenging and rewarding.

After four years of research, I determined the "old country" was Italy. Our ancestors lived in a town settled by Albanians escaping Ottoman persecutions during the 14th century. The town is San Demetrio Corone. Over the years, these Albanians, known as Arbëreshë, have retained their ethnic and linguistic roots.

San Demetrio Corone was named after its Greek patron saint, Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki. Grandma's name at birth was Guistina Augusta Lepera. Nell's was Marianna Adelina Ernesta Lepera. I had to go visit and see the town for myself.

Traveling to Grandma's Birthplace

At the end of May 2014, I flew to Rome and drove 325 miles southeast to the Province of Cosenza in the Calabrian region. Exiting Autostrada A-3 at Stazione Di Mongrassano, I crossed the Crati, the largest river in Calabria. I then drove up the old, narrow, winding road through the village of Santa Sofia d'Epiro to the outskirts of San Demetrio Corone, where Grandma was born. Along the way, I stopped at a sign with a map of all the Arbëreshë Communities in the area.

Map of Arbëreshë Mountain Communities

Church and Town Center San Demetrio Corone, Cosenza, Italy

Her birthplace was in a house at Largo Marco Bozzari #18, a few blocks southwest of the town center. Standing in the plaza by the Arbëreshë church, I could sense what life was like for my ancestors. What a feeling! Above is a photograph of what I saw. Below is a magnificent painting of the area.

Painting of Church and Town Center San Demetrio Corone, Cosenza, Italy

Looking east, I could see the Gulf of Taranto and the heel of the Italian boot in the distance. Below is a photo of a summer sunrise.at San Demetrio looking out over the gulf.

Sunrise over San Demetrio Corone

I obtained records at the town hall and spent time at the cemetery on the east side of town where Grandma's Macri, Baffa, and Bellucci ancestors were buried. Although I found Macri and Baffa headstones and mausoleums, the deaths were in the 1900s. When I looked for records from the 1800s and earlier, I discovered there were none. I learned the Italians "rent" cemetery space and the graves are unearthed after a certain number of years. The bones are then buried in a common grave…a disappointment.

Little did I know I was a second generation Italian-American. My doctor was right when he revealed some time ago an anemic trait in my blood was associated with Mediterranean ancestry. This trait was an adaptation to frequent malaria epidemics in the region.

DNA Results

DNA Origins 2024

When I took the Ancestry autosomal DNA test, ethnicities inherited from Grandma Seymour were confirmed. As of 2024, 20% of my origins from past generations were connected to Calabria, Italy; Albania amd Greece shown on the chart above.

When did grandma's ancestors migrate to Italy? It was during the 1400s as shown on the map below.

Map of Arbëreshë Migrations to Italy

The red line shows their migration route. After leaving the port city of Durrës, Albania, they came ashore in the Italian region of Puglia. From Puglia they migrated west, then south to the region of Calabria…from the heel to the sole of the Italian "boot."

In reaching out to relevant genealogy groups on social media, I've engaged with others connected to San Demetrio Corone. They include Southern Italian DNA and Genealogy, Calabria Italy Genealogy, Cosenza Genealogy and Italian Genealogy. Many share the Macri, Bellucci and Baffa surnames which are common in several generations of Grandma Seymours lineage.

Grandma's Lifestyle

Grandma was tall and stately in appearance, usually attired in a long dark dress. She had an olive complexion with dark eyes and long black hair pulled up above her shoulders. She wore distinguishable perfumes and colognes.

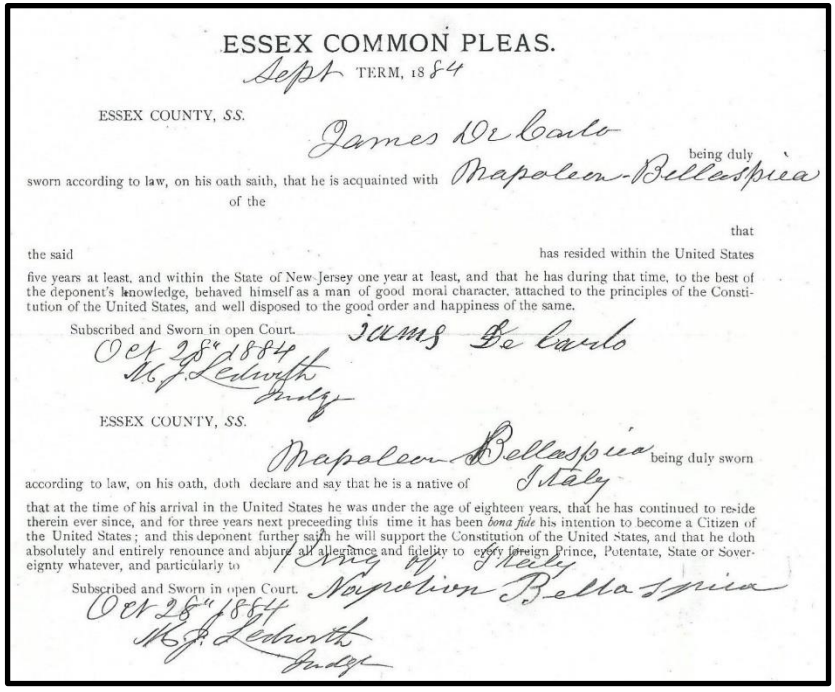
Her upscale home was very formal and always well kept. She had a maid, Lulu, who worked in the kitchen during our Christmas Eve dinners. Grandma was a gifted decorator with fine furnishings. Nothing was out of place. There was a scent inside that could only be identified with her house. She was a quiet, soft spoken person who kept to herself. Grandma always referred to me as "Gregory" in conversations and in writing.

Nigger Babies

She did not hesitate to offer her opinion about various ethnic groups, particularly the Italians. Small candies were known to her as "Nigger Babies," however, she wasn't being offensive. I've since learned these candies did exist. To avoid the use of this racial term, the name was changed to "Chocolate Babies." during the 1960s.

Grandma's Family

Grandma's father worked as a barber in the "Down Neck" section of Newark, New Jersey, an area located on a neck of the Passaic River. He lived there from the time of his arrival in 1884 until his death on December 15, 1912. His wife Rosangela, died only nine days later.



ESSEX COMMON PLEAS.

Sept TERM, 1884

ESSEX COUNTY, SS.

James DeCarlo being duly sworn according to law, on his oath saith, that he is acquainted with Napoleon Bellaspica of the that the said has resided within the United States five years at least, and within the State of New Jersey one year at least, and that he has during that time, to the best of the deponent's knowledge, behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and Sworn in open Court. James DeCarlo

Oct 28th 1884

M. J. Ledwith

Judge

ESSEX COUNTY, SS.

Napoleon Bellaspica being duly sworn according to law, on his oath, doth declare and say that he is a native of Italy that at the time of his arrival in the United States he was under the age of eighteen years, that he has continued to reside therein ever since, and for three years next preceding this time it has been *bona fide* his intention to become a Citizen of the United States; and this deponent further saith he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the King of Italy

Subscribed and Sworn in open Court. Napoleon Bellaspica

Oct 28th 1884

M. J. Ledwith

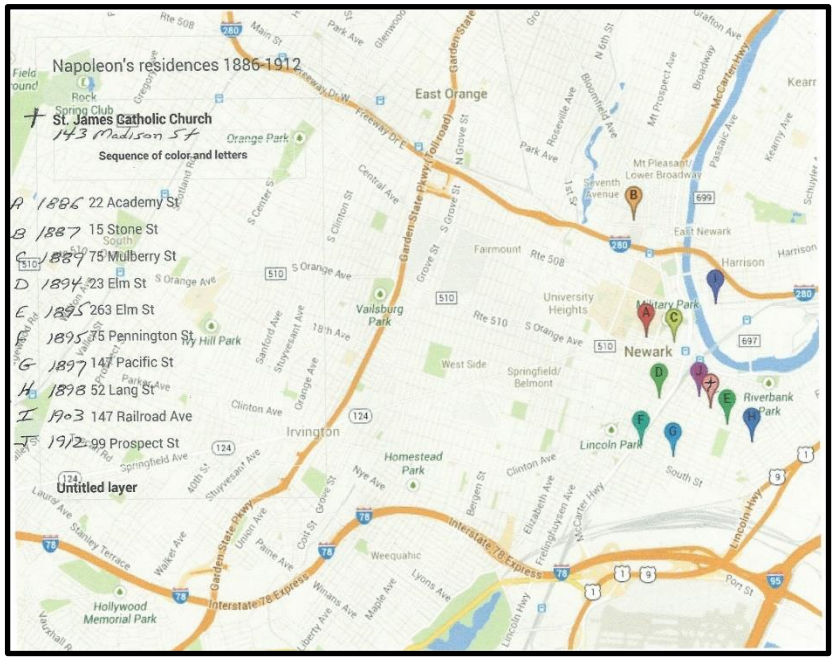
Judge

Napoleon's Naturalization - 1884

When he was naturalized at the Essex Court of Common Pleas, he told the judge his name was Napoleon Bellaspica, not Angelo Lepera. His witness, James DeCarlo agreed and stood up for him. About 1890, he added the surname Layare to Bellaspica. At the time of his death, he was known as Napoleon Layare. These were the days before the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service was established.

Grandma's Early Years

When Grandma was growing up, her family moved several times within the "Down Neck" neighborhood. Her father's barber shop went along with them as part of their home. Below is a map of the places they lived.



Napoleon's Residences from 1886 to 1912

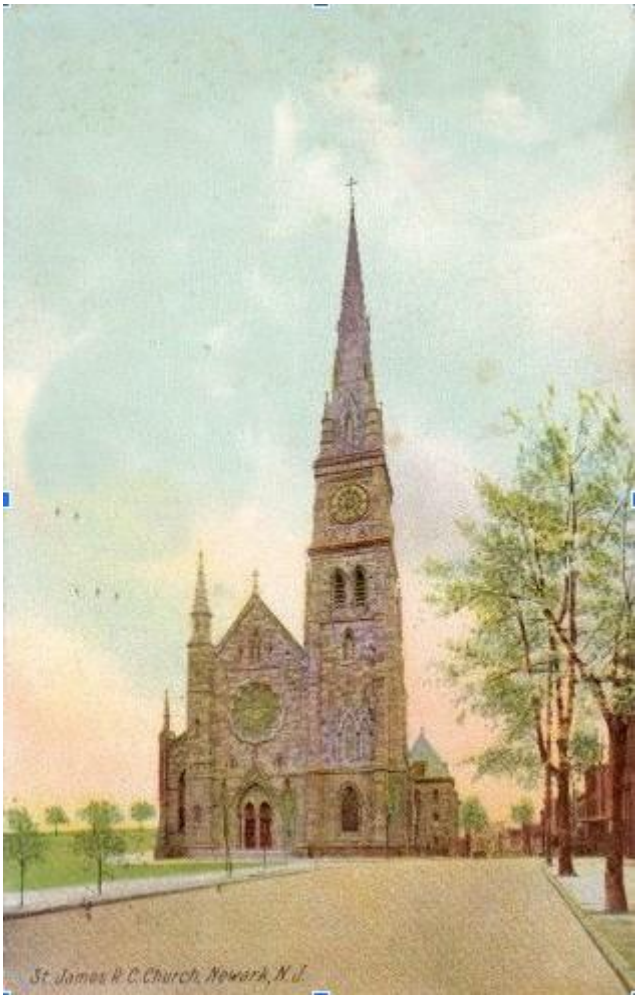
Napoleon and Rosangela had eight children. Only three survived. Grandma, Nell and Edna, her younger sister who was born in Newark. All three sisters married husbands descended from Irish or English immigrants.

Compulsory public education did not begin in the U.S. until the 1920s. The 1920 Census indicates Grandma never attended school. While growing up, Lafayette Street School was near her home as was Newark High School. However, in those days, few girls attended school.

Barber Shop, Newark, New Jersey circa 1900

How did Grandma and Grandpa Meet?

The courtship of Grandma and Grandpa seems unique. Grandpa, an attorney, was the son of the President of the Common Council in Orange, New Jersey. How did he meet Grandma, a barber's daughter from "Down Neck," Newark? It was likely because Grandpa went there to get his haircut while at the Common Council office in Newark. The trip from his law office in Orange to the council office in Newark was about a 30 minute trolley or train ride. I can imagine him asking his colleagues, "Where can I find a good barber?"

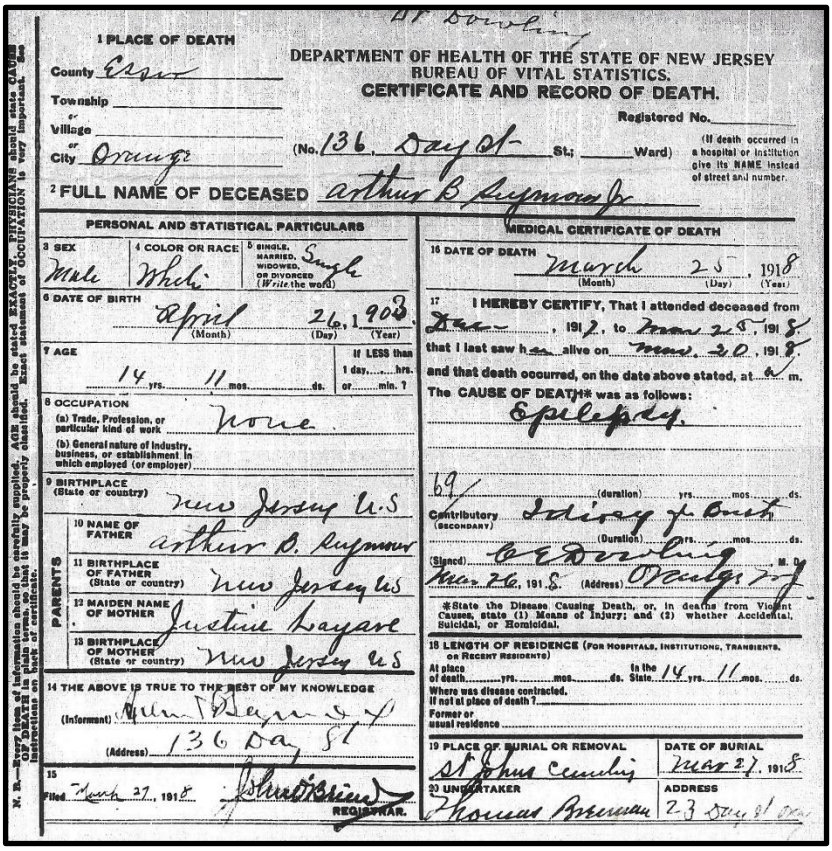


St. James Catholic Church, Newark, New Jersey

During their courtship Grandma gave birth to a son, Arthur, Jr. in April 1903. About seven months later they were married at St. James Catholic Church, a short distance from Grandma's home. The priest was the Reverend Patrick Cody and the witnesses were James Maguire and Margaret Suite.

Uncle Justin, Grandma, and Pop circa 1912

In January 1905, Pop was born in Newark, followed by his brother Justin in July 1907. Arthur, Jr. was not a healthy child and was not enrolled in school. There are no family pictures of him since he was not living at home. In the 1915 New Jersey State Census, he was a patient at the Essex County Hospital in Cedar Grove. He died of epilepsy on March 25, 1918 and was buried two days later in an unmarked grave at St. John's Catholic Church cemetery in Orange. The contributory cause of death was idiocy from birth.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Essex
Township
or Village
or City Orange (No. 136 Day St St.; Ward)
Registered No.
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2 FULL NAME OF DECEASED Arthur B. Seymour Jr.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Male
4 COLOR OR RACE White
5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word) Single
6 DATE OF BIRTH April 26, 1903 (Month) (Day) (Year)
7 AGE 14 yrs. 11 mos. ds. If LESS than 1 day hrs. or min.
8 OCCUPATION
(a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work None
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) New Jersey U.S
PARENTS
10 NAME OF FATHER Arthur B. Seymour
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) New Jersey U.S
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Justine Layare
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) New Jersey U.S
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Informant) Mrs. Seymour
(Address) 136 Day St
15 Filed March 27, 1918 REGISTRAR.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH March 25, 1918 (Month) (Day) (Year)
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Dec, 1917, to March 25, 1918
that I last saw h alive on March 20, 1918
and that death occurred, on the date above stated, at a. m.
The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Epilepsy.
69 (duration) yrs. mos. ds.
Contributory (SECONDARY) Idiocy of Cort (Duration) yrs. mos. ds.
(Signed) C E Dowling M. D.
March 26, 1918 (Address) Orange N J

*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS)
At place of death yrs. mos. ds. In the State 14 yrs. 11 mos. ds.
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?
Former or usual residence

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL St Johns Cemtry — DATE OF BURIAL March 27, 1918
20 UNDERTAKER Thomas Brennan — ADDRESS 23 Day St Ora

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Death Certificate Arthur B. Seymour, Jr.

They probably asked the priest not to publish any information. Grandpa was Mayor of Orange from 1908-1912. He was sensitive to the political implications of an out of wedlock birth and Arthur, Jr.'s medical condition. As a town official, he probably was able to keep information about the death from going beyond St. John's. Will this remain a family secret? Is the answer in a safe at the church office?

Postcard showing Grandma's birthplace about 1920

World War I monument at center, Church at upper right

Grandma and Grandpa Seymour at the Jersey Shore about 1920

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Seymour of Orange, were in town yesterday looking over the improvements being made to their recently purchased bungalow at 421 Washington avenue.

Spring Lake Gazette - June 1937

Grandpa and Grandma loved to visit the Jersey Shore. From the photo above, going to the beach was quite different than today. They likely felt more comfortable by themselves, away from the city. However, it must have been startling when they saw large airships from Naval Air Station Lakehurst flying over the beach. Lakehurst was the site of the Hindenburg airship fire in May 1937. At that time, they bought a summer home (bungalow) in Spring Lake.

344 South Harrison Street, East Orange, New Jersey

My first memory of grandma was at her home at 344 South Harrison Street in East Orange, New Jersey on Chrisrmas Eve 1944.

Grandma and Grandpa had the home built in 1926. To me, it was enormous, always neat and well appointed. Although I never stayed long during visits, I had many pleasant memories of times spent there.

106 South Harrison Street, East Orange, New Jersey

Following Grandpa's passing in 1951, Grandma sold the house in Spring Lake. She continued to live in her home at 344 South Harrison Street. In 1960, she put the house up for sale and moved to an apartment on the sixth floor at 106 South Harrison Street. I was there when she was moving into her apartment. It was so small and confining. A living room, one bedroom, and a kitchenette. It was hard to imagine how she must have felt, having lived in a large house for 30 years.

I remember visiting Grandma when she was a patient at St. Mary's Hospital in Orange, New Jersey. Her bed was in an open area with other patients. I went to Grandma's apartment a short time afterward while on a date with a student nurse from St. Mary's. My date was of Hungarian descent. Grandma did not approve.

Easter 1962 at 31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Front row: Half-brother Peter Seymour 2, Half- sister Anne Seymour 4

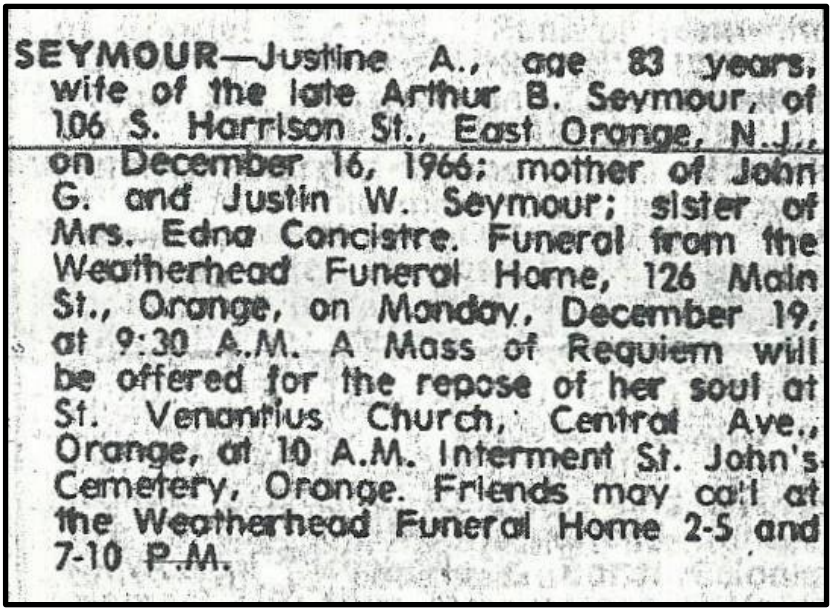
Back row: Grandma, Me, Sister Cindy Seymour 17

May 1962 at 31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
Pop and Grandma

November 1964 at Captain Starn's Restaurant in Atlantic City, New Jersey
Uncle Justin, Grandma, and Pop

Uncle Justin would take her grocery shopping on weekends. Grandma would visit us on holidays and special occasions. She visited when I came home after receiving my Naval Aviation Officer wings at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. We ate at Howard Johnson's in East Orange, the Smithfield Inn in Absecon, and Captain Starn's in Atlantic City.

The photo at Captain Starns is the last I have of Grandma, with Uncle Justin and Pop before she died.



SEYMOUR—Justine A., age 83 years, wife of the late Arthur B. Seymour, of 106 S. Harrison St., East Orange, N.J., on December 16, 1966; mother of John G. and Justin W. Seymour; sister of Mrs. Edna Concistre. Funeral from the Weatherhead Funeral Home, 126 Main St., Orange, on Monday, December 19, at 9:30 A.M. A Mass of Requiem will be offered for the repose of her soul at St. Venantius Church, Central Ave., Orange, at 10 A.M. Interment St. John's Cemetery, Orange. Friends may call at the Weatherhead Funeral Home 2-5 and 7-10 P.M.

Grandma Seymours Obituary

She lived at her apartment until she died in 1966 at West Essex Hospital in Livingston, New Jersey. A passport was found in the nightstand next to her bed. Although my grandparents planned a trip to Europe, they never made it. May this story reach you in Heaven, Grandma.

First Years 1939-1944

1939 Birthday Card

I'll start this memoir with a birthday card prepared for those born in 1939. The most recognizable things were the start of World War II; the songs *Over the Rainbow* and *God Bless America*; the movies *Gone with the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz; the* World Series Champion New York Yankees; and the baby name John.

My Early Years with Mom and Pop

Although I have written memoirs about my childhood, none have examined the time from when I was born until my first day of kindergarten in September 1944. For me, it is difficult to remember anything before age three, unless Mom or Pop brought it to my attention sometime later. With an enticing array of documents and photos to trigger my memories, I decided to write about this part of my life.

Montclair Community Hospital

Of MONTCLAIR, N. J.

HOSPITAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE

This Certifies that John Gregory Seymour

was born in Montclair Community Hospital of Montclair, N. J.

at 10:55 am on the 4th day of November A. D. 1939

In Witness Whereof the said Hospital has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized officer and its Corporate Seal to be hereunto affixed.

Doctor O.R. Deutel M.D.

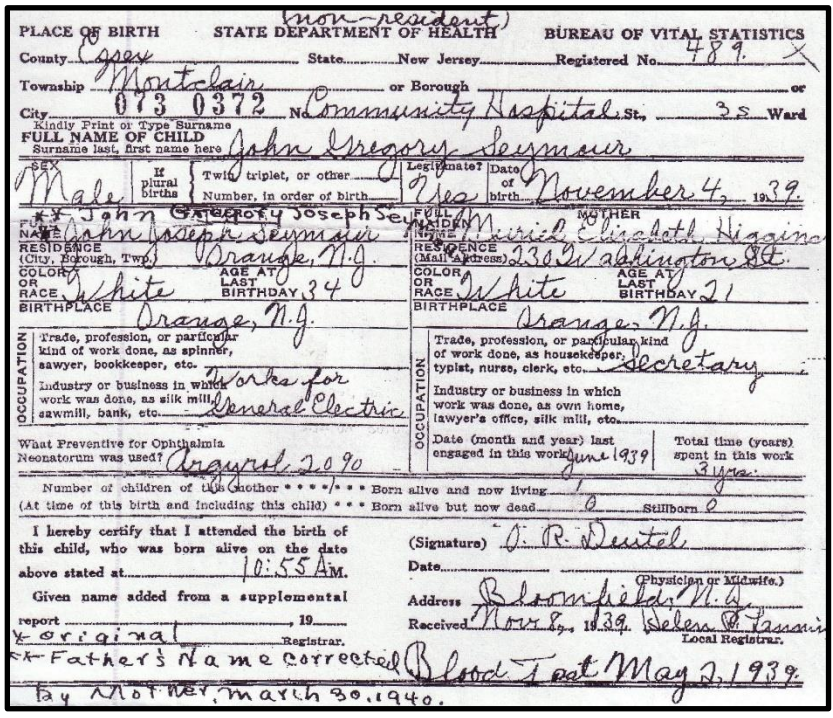
Hospital Number 16989

Superintendent

Hospital Birth Certificate

The first record of my entry into the world is a Hospital Birth Certificate from Montclair Community Hospital in Montclair, New Jersey. I was a small baby…only five pounds, four ounces. The Certificate states I was born at 10:55 A.M. on the 4th day of November 1939. It also includes impressions of my feet. The doctor was shown as O. R. Deutel, who was our family physician during the early years of my life. I remember Dr. Deutel's office

was at the corner of Newark Avenue and Franklin Street in Bloomfield, New Jersey.



PLACE OF BIRTH — STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

(non-resident)

County Essex State New Jersey Registered No. 489

Township Montclair or Borough or

City 073 0372 No. Community Hospital St. 38 Ward

Kindly Print or Type Surname

FULL NAME OF CHILD

Surname last, first name here John Gregory Seymour

SEX: Male | If plural births: Twin, triplet, or other Number, in order of birth | Legitimate? Yes | Date of birth November 4, 1939

FATHER — FULL NAME: John Gregory Joseph Seymour (** John Gregory Joseph Seymour) — RESIDENCE (City, Borough, Twp.): Orange, N.J. — COLOR OR RACE: White — AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY: 34 — BIRTHPLACE: Orange, N.J.

OCCUPATION — Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc.: Works for — Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc.: General Electric

MOTHER — FULL MAIDEN NAME: Muriel Elizabeth Higgins — RESIDENCE (Mail Address): 230 Washington St. — COLOR OR RACE: White — AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY: 21 — BIRTHPLACE: Orange, N.J.

OCCUPATION — Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housekeeper, typist, nurse, clerk, etc.: Secretary — Industry or business in which work was done, as own home, lawyer's office, silk mill, etc.:

What Preventive for Ophthalmia Neonatorum was used? Argyrol 20%

Date (month and year) last engaged in this work June 1939 — Total time (years) spent in this work 3 yrs.

Number of children of this mother • • • • / • • • Born alive and now living 1

(At time of this birth and including this child) • • • Born alive but now dead 0 Stillborn 0

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive on the date above stated at 10:55 A.M.

(Signature) O. R. Deustel

Date (Physician or Midwife.)

Given name added from a supplemental report 19

Address Bloomfield, N.J.

Received Nov 8, 1939 Helen R. Tassani Local Registrar.

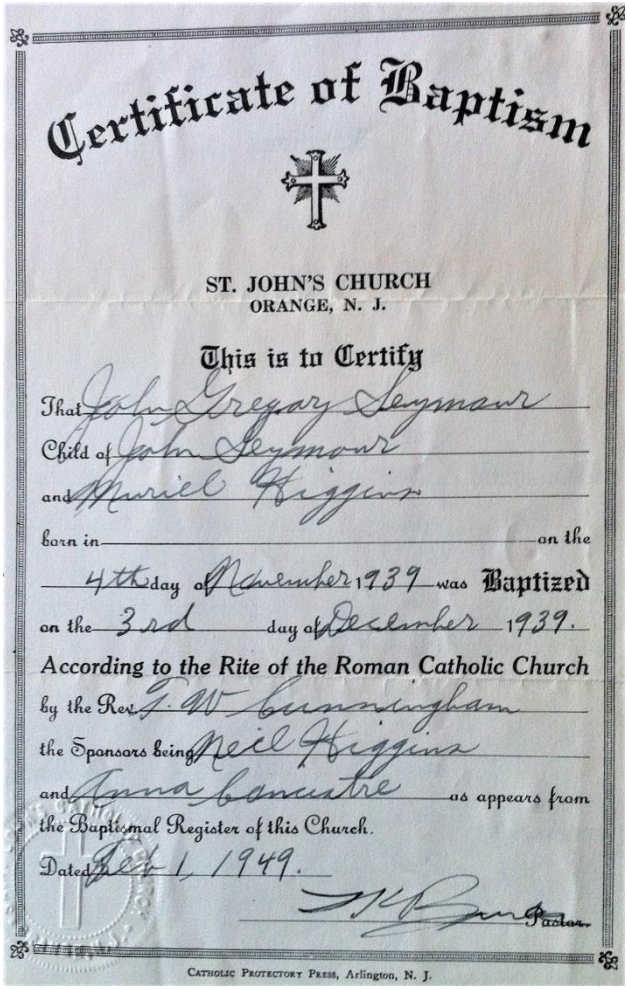
Original Registrar.

** Father's Name Corrected by Mother, March 30, 1940. Blood Test May 2, 1939.

State Birth Certificate

On November 8, 1939, a State Birth Certificate was issued by the Department of Health in Montclair. The Certificate identified my father as John Joseph Seymour. Mom corrected his name to John Gregory Seymour on March 30, 1940. Pop evidently did not like the name Gregory and Mom did. There was no one named Gregory in our family. Perhaps I got the name from Gregory Peck, who was starting his acting career at the time. It showed Pop worked for General Electric and Mom had worked as a secretary for three years. She worked for the National Biscuit Company (Nabisco), but left in June 1939 to prepare for my coming in November. Her uncle, Frank Higgins, was Manager of Sales for Nabisco in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. No doubt, Frank had a lot to do with getting her the job.

St. John's Catholic Church, Orange, New Jersey



Certificate of Baptism

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
ORANGE, N. J.

This is to Certify

That John Gregory Seymour
Child of John Seymour
and Muriel Higgins
born in _____ on the
4th day of November 1939 was Baptized
on the 3rd day of December 1939.
According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church
by the Rev. F. W. Cunningham
the Sponsors being Neil Higgins
and Anna Concistre as appears from
the Baptismal Register of this Church.
Dated Feb 1, 1949.
_____ Pastor

CATHOLIC PROTECTORY PRESS, Arlington, N. J.

Greg's Certificate of Baptism

On December 3, 1939, I was baptized at St. John's Catholic Church in Orange, New Jersey by Father F.W. Cunningham. Mon's brother, Neil Higgins, and Pop's cousin, Anna Concistre, were my godparents. St. John's was the Seymour family's home church. My great-great grandparents joined the newly formed congregation after their arrival from Limerick, Ireland in 1850.

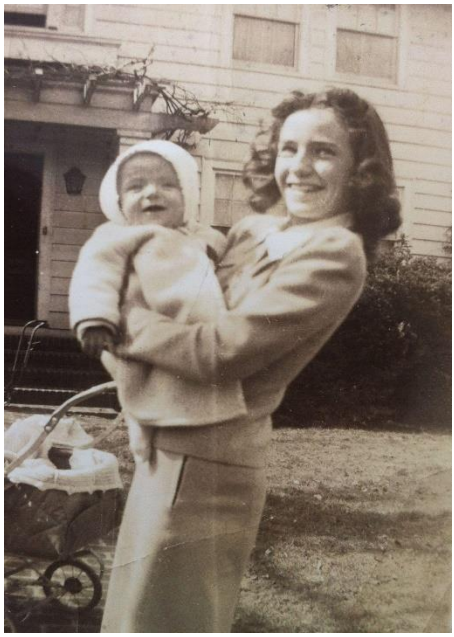
230 Washington Street, Orange, New Jersey

My First Home

My first home was at 230 Washington Street in Orange, where I lived in an apartment during my first year. In 2020, the brick building looked much the same as it was when I lived there. According to the 1940 Census, the rent was $33 a month and my father's salary was $1,456 per year. My father's brother, Justin, my aunt Rosemary and cousin, Arthur III, born 16 April 1939, lived in another apartment at this address. Justin's rent was $45 a month. As a lawyer with his own practice, his salary was not disclosed.

Me and Mom - Spring 1940

Above and below are my earliest baby pictures. Mom and her younger sister Doris had me out in my baby carriage for a stroll through a local neighborhood.



Greg and Aunt Doris - Spring 1940

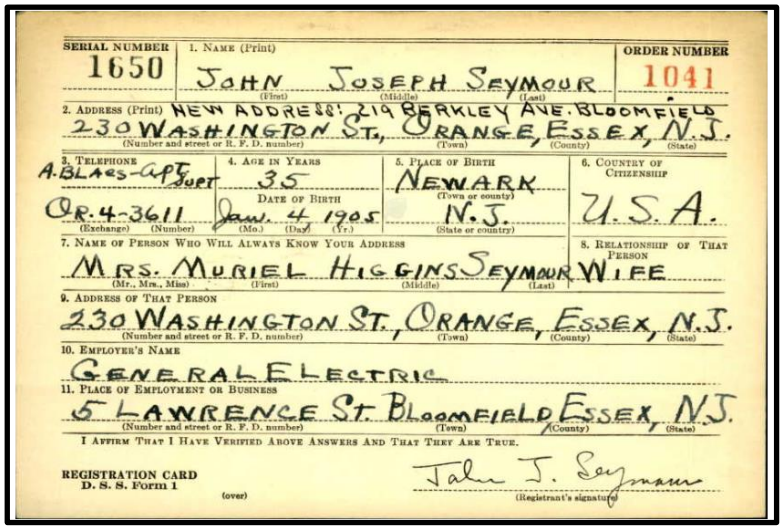
Pop and Me - July 1940

Me and Mom - July 1940

My first recollection of Pop and Mom came after seeing the above photos. I was about six months old, sitting on their laps on lawn chairs in the backyard of our apartment building in Orange, New Jersey. On Pop's lap, it looks like I was furiously waving my arms. I must have been excited about something. *Was there an airplane flying by?* I seemed to be more content when I sat on Mom's lap.

Bobby Beck, Lillian Beck, Pop, Me and Mom - July 1940

A short time later, Mom's friend, Lillian Beck, and her son, Bobby, visited us. Bobby and I went through school together. This photo was unusual since Pop had a cheerful smile on his face. When compared to Mom's bubbly Irish disposition, Pop rarely smiled. Perhaps this was a trait derived from his mother's Italo-Albanian culture. Mom seems to be wearing a white barrette to hold her hair in place.



SERIAL NUMBER 1650 | 1. NAME (Print) JOHN JOSEPH SEYMOUR (First) (Middle) (Last) | ORDER NUMBER 1041

2. ADDRESS (Print) NEW ADDRESS: 219 BERKLEY AVE. BLOOMFIELD
230 WASHINGTON ST., ORANGE, ESSEX, N.J.
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

3. TELEPHONE A.BLAES-apt SUPT OR.4-3611 (Exchange) (Number)

4. AGE IN YEARS 35
DATE OF BIRTH Jan. 4 1905 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)

5. PLACE OF BIRTH NEWARK (Town or county) N.J. (State or country)

6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
MRS. MURIEL HIGGINS SEYMOUR (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON WIFE

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON
230 WASHINGTON ST., ORANGE, ESSEX, N.J.
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME
GENERAL ELECTRIC

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
5 LAWRENCE ST. BLOOMFIELD ESSEX, N.J.
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD
D. S. S. Form 1
(over)

John J. Seymour
(Registrant's signature)

Pop's World War II Draft Registration October 16, 1940

On September 16, 1940, President Roosevelt signed into law the first peacetime Selective Service Act. On the first registration, males ages 21 to 35 were subject to the draft. Pop was 35 in 1940, so he needed to register. On October 16th, he filled out the card as shown above. Being married with a son and daughter on the way, he was never called up. The registration shows he was preparing to move to Bloomfield, New Jersey and was now employed as a clerk at General Electric on 5 Lawrence Street. As shown, he still insisted on being called John Joseph rather than John Gregory.

At work, Pop met Dave Kingsland. Dave and his family lived a short distance from Pop at 390 Carroll Street, so they may have commuted together. Pop's friendship with Dave led to a series of interfamily relationships revealed in my other memoirs.

Former General Electric Plant, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Shown above is General Electric's former electric switch manufacturing facility alongside the Garden State Parkway. The one million square foot building has since been transformed into apartments.

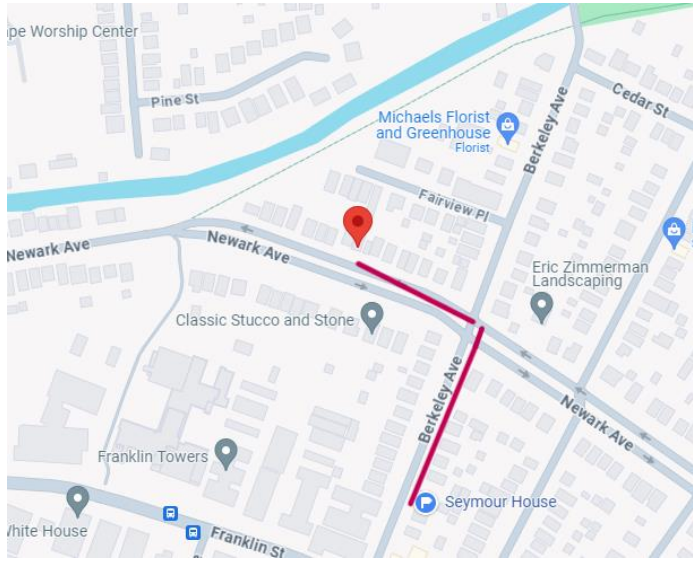
219 Berkeley Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey

My Second Home

By the end of 1940, we had moved into our new home at 219 Berkeley Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey. I spent almost all of my growing-up years here, captured in my Memoir of 219 Berkeley Avenue. From our new home, my father walked to his job at General Electric where he worked until the end of the war.

135 Newark Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Mom's family lived around the corner at 135 Newark Avenue, as shown in the photo above and map below.



Seymour to Higgins House

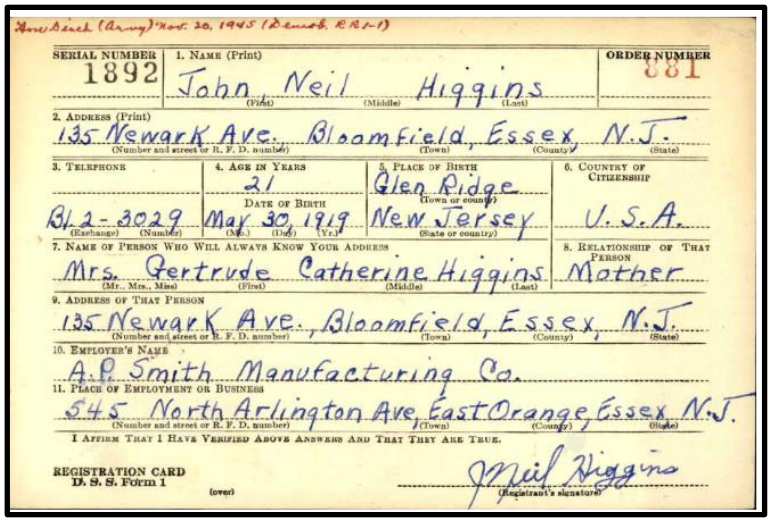
In July 1941, Grandpa Higgins and Uncle Neil, stopped by to say hello.

Greg 1 and Grandpa Higgins in backyard - July 1941

Greg 1 and Uncle Neil Higgins in backyard - July 1941

On the 1940 Census, Grandpa Higgins was the accountant at the Bloomfield Water Department. He later became an official for

the A.P. Smith Manufacturing Company in East Orange, known for building fire hydrants.



Amended (Army) Nov. 30, 1940 (Reenlist. ERA-1)

SERIAL NUMBER 1892 | 1. NAME (Print) John Neil Higgins (First) (Middle) (Last) | ORDER NUMBER 681

2. ADDRESS (Print) 135 Newark Ave. Bloomfield, Essex N.J. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

3. TELEPHONE (Exchange) B1 2-3029 (Number)

4. AGE IN YEARS 21 DATE OF BIRTH (Mo.) May 30 (Day) 1919 (Yr.)

5. PLACE OF BIRTH Glen Ridge (Town or county) New Jersey (State or country)

6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Mrs. Gertrude Catherine Higgins (First) (Middle) (Last)

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Mother

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 135 Newark Ave., Bloomfield, Essex, N.J. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME A.P. Smith Manufacturing Co.

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 545 North Arlington Ave, East Orange, Essex N.J. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 (over)

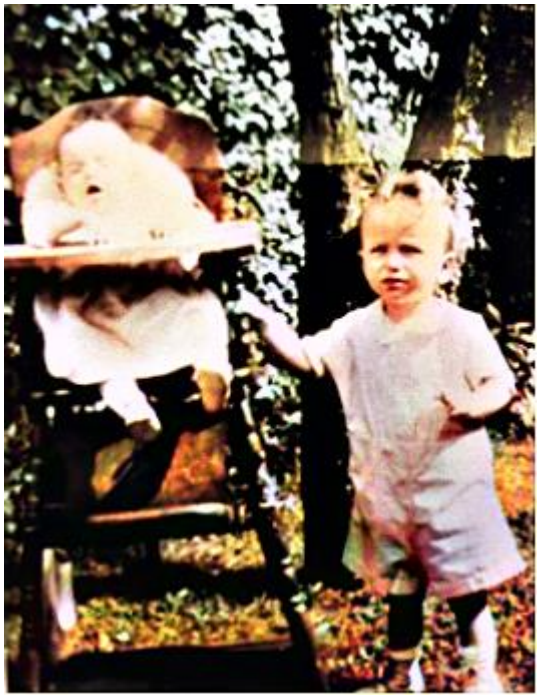
John Neil Higgins (Registrant's signature)

Uncle Neil's World War II Draft Registration Card

Uncle Neil, enlisted in the Army on April 15, 1941 and was letting me try on his new hat. Five months later, Neil would be in Hawaii during the Japanese attack. He survived the attack and returned home in 1944. During these years, I remembered little about the war and Neil never talked about it after coming home. The only food rationing I can recall was substituting margarine for butter.

Civil Defense Logo

An outgrowth of the war was the Civil Defense siren. Every Saturday at noon, it blared from the top of the municipal building near Bloomfield Center. Its piercing sound could be heard from miles away. Fortunately, it was always a test.



Tina and Greg-July 1941

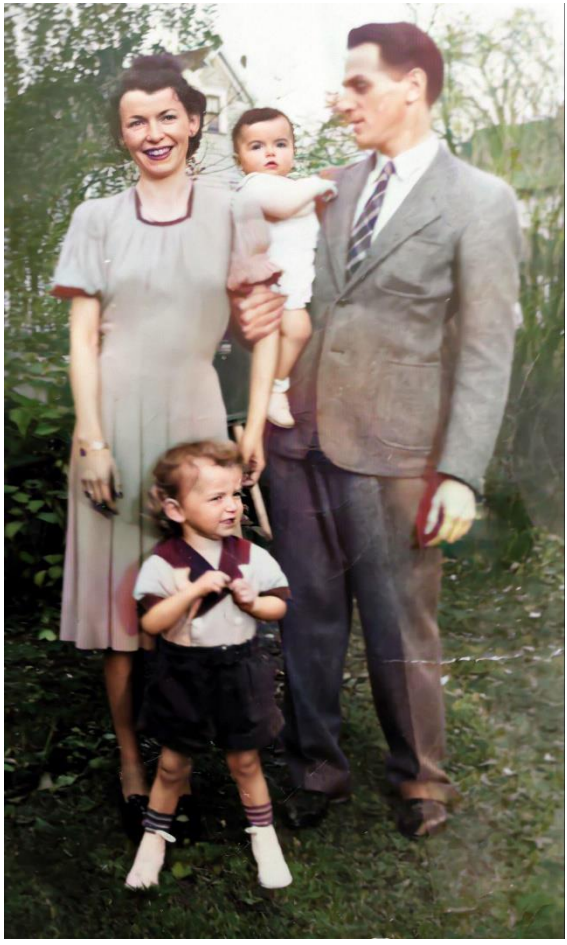
Tina, Mom and Greg - 1941

My sister, Tina, was born on January 4, 1941, Pop's 36th birthday. *What a birthday gift!* Above is our new arrival with Mom and me.

Tina – 1941

Tina & Pop - 1941

Greg and Tina in the snow at Grandpa and Grandma Higgins Home



Thanksgiving 1941 at 135 Newark Avenue

In November 1941, our family went to the Higgins' for Thanksgiving dinner. This became a family tradition during my early years.

Tina 1 and Greg 2 at play behind cellar doors - March 1942

Greg and Tina in Wagon on Front Porch - March 1942

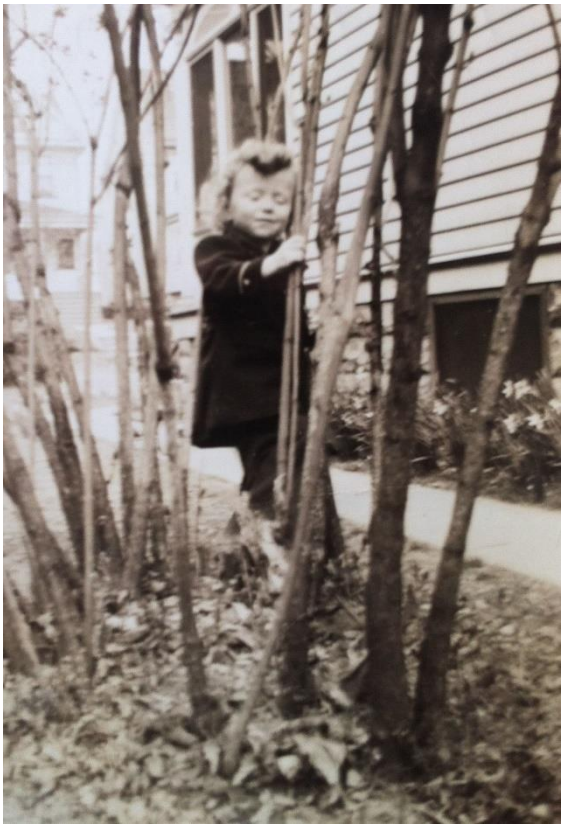
Greg 2 with Daffodil - Spring 1942

As shown above, at age two, I had an attractive head of curly blonde hair. For a long time, my parents resisted having it cut. When the time came, my locks were preserved for posterity. I still have them.

Kitchen Wall Clock

Although I didn't walk until I was over a year old, I was able to tell time by age three and a half. My parents bragged about this accomplishment. I must have spent a lot of time staring at the wall clock in the kitchen while sitting in my high chair.

Greg 2 Riding Tricycle - Spring 1942



Greg 2 on Lilac Bush - Spring 1942

In the spring of 1942, I was caught trying to climb a lilac bush. Spring had sprung and so had my hair. It was blonde and filled with curly locks. My hair had never been cut. It was so precious, Mom wanted to leave it alone. Eventually, Pop and I took a very unpleasant trip to see his barber who then used hand clippers. *It felt like it was going to hurt.* Mom made sure some of my locks were saved…I still have them.

Greg with Garden Rake - Summer 1942

Tina in Lawn Chair - Summer 1942

We had a large backyard and driveway surrounded by a tall hedge. I tried using a garden rake, but I think it got the better of me. Tina lived it up by sitting in a lawn chair..

Greg and Tina - Easter 1943

On Easter 1943, Tina and I sported our new outfits in the back yard. It was April 25th, spring was in full bloom and we were in living color.

F.W. Woolworth 5-10 Cent Store, Bloomfield, New Jersey

I remember Mom taking me to the F.W. Woolworth 5-10 Cent Store in Bloomfield Center. They had a lot of toys. The coloring books and crayons were always a special treat.

Greg and Brian McNally - August 1944

Mom's friend, Dottie McNally, stopped by our house with her son Brian. He was about my age, but bigger in size. We sat down in the backyard and enjoyed eating ice cream cones during a late summer afternoon. In less than a month I would be starting kindergarten. I was depressed. *How can they do this to me? I'm only four and a half and not ready to start school. I don't want to be the youngest in the class.* Those were the rules.

Satellite view of walk from Home to Berkeley Elementary School

The walk from my home on Berkeley Avenue to Berkeley Elementary School was one and a half miles as shown in red on the satellite map above. It took about 10-12 minutes. On my first day, Mom walked me to school and sprained her ankle. She was also five months pregnant with my second sister, Cindy. After that, I reluctantly went on my own after raising a tantrum. For safety, there was usually a crossing guard at the corner of Franklin Street and Berkeley Place. My Memoir of Berkeley School will follow.

Baseball and Basketball
1940-Present

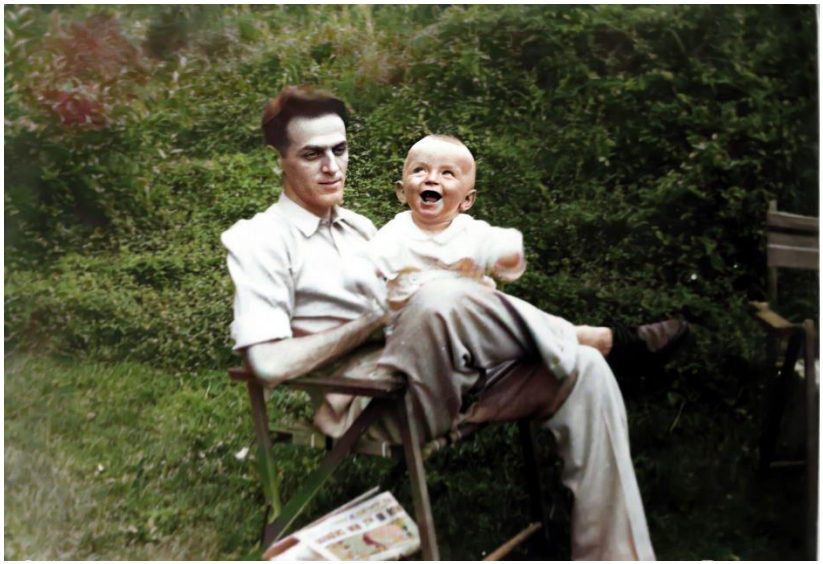
My fascination with baseball and basketball began at an early age. Pop played forward on the basketball team at Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Virginia. Established in 1879, Fishburne is the oldest and smallest of all military schools for boys in Virginia. Pop received a major letter in basketball for the 1927 and 1928 seasons. During his senior year, the team started strong with four consecutive wins, but only won one more game, ending the year with five wins and eight losses.

He was also the Athletic Editor of the school newspaper--*CQ*. The term CQ is used by wireless operators communicating in Morse code, but also by voice operators to make a general call. Transmitting the letters CQ on a particular radio frequency is an invitation for any operator listening on that frequency to respond. It is still widely used in amateur radio. The CQ is still published at Fishburne today. Pop attended Fishburne for two years, graduating in 1928.

Fishburne Basketball Team 1928

Pop in front row second from right

Aside from basketball, Pop also conveyed many stories of the baseball legends of his youth. Legends such as Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, and Joe DiMaggio. It was no surprise that in July 1940, I was sitting on his lap after he checked the baseball scores in the back section of the New York Daily News. Waving my arms so fast that the camera couldn't see them, I was getting an early start as a fan.



Pop and Greg, 230 Washington Street, Orange, New Jersey - July 1941

See New York Daily News sports page under chair

The headline in the paper under Pop's chair read "Dodgers Win 7th in Row." Mom would have been pleased with that headline. She was a lifelong fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers, affectionately referred to as "The Bums." As long as I can remember, baseball was part of our everyday household conversation during the summer months. I made regular visits to Fischer's corner store to purchase Fleer and Topps baseball cards to trade with my friends. Our neighbors exchanged stories about their favorite players and the scores of the games. A feeling of sorrow enveloped me on August 16, 1948, the day Babe Ruth died. My first visit to a baseball

stadium was when I went to Rupert Stadium to see the Newark Eagles play.

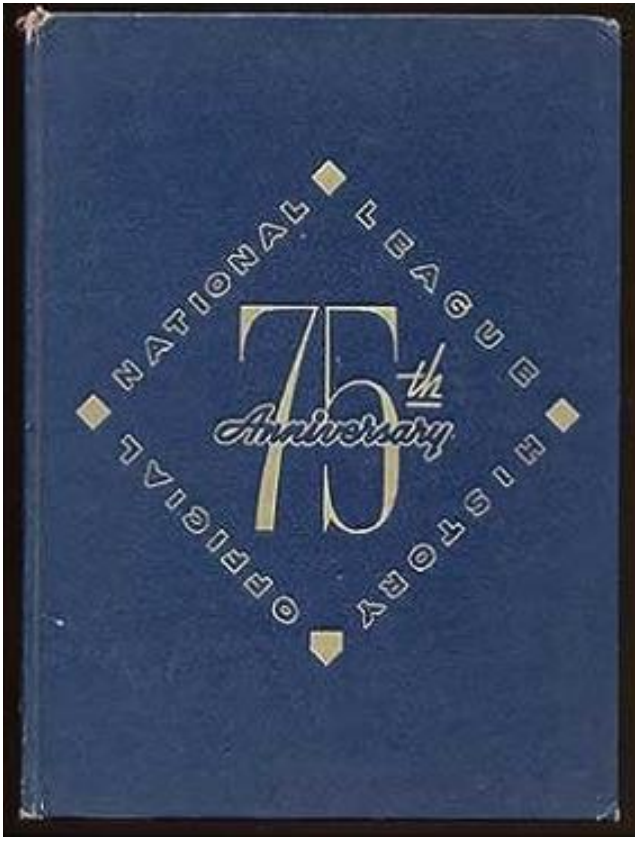
Larry Doby and the Indians

The Eagles were part of the Negro League and a little known player, Larry Doby, was on the team. Larry became the first black player in the American League when he joined the Cleveland Indians in 1947. He was a key member of the Indians team that won the 1948 World Series.

Greg the left-hander

In May 1949, Pop gave me my first baseball glove. It was for a left-hander. Although not ambidextrous, I performed some functions with my right arm and others with my left. For baseball, I found that I threw with my left arm, but batted right-handed. Naturally, I wanted to be a pitcher. With my new glove, I eagerly awaited Pop coming home from work so that we could play catch in the driveway. Although small in area, we occasionally made the

lower part of the driveway in front of the garage into a baseball diamond.



Pop brought home a yearbook celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the National League in August 1951. There were only eight teams in the league back then. Chicago Cubs, Boston Braves, New York Giants, Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis Cardinals, Cincinnati Reds, Pittsburgh Pirates, and Brooklyn Dodgers. Pop was a Giants fan. I leaned toward the American League and the Yankees.

New York Yankees Logo

During the early ‘50s, I traveled to Yankee Stadium to see both a day and a night game. The night game was particularly memorable with all the glistening lights. I remember seeing Whitey Ford and Vic Raschi pitch, Phil Rizzuto at shortstop, and Yogi Berra behind the plate. Seems like the Yankees won every game.

Brooklyn Dodgers Logo

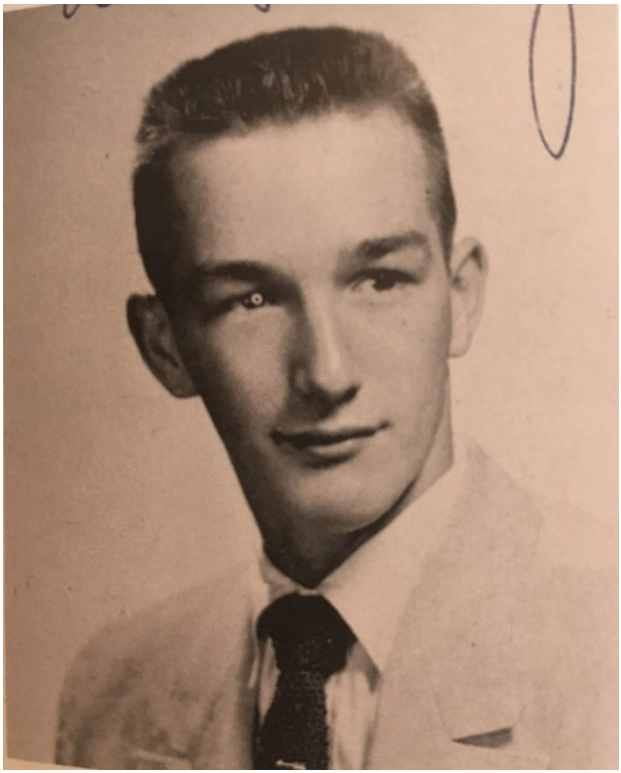
A mom ironing in front of TV

During the 1951 season, the Giants made a remarkable comeback to force a three game playoff with the Dodgers for the National League pennant. I remember seeing Mom ironing clothes in front of the TV when Bobby Thompson hit a home run off pitcher Ralph Branca which became known as "the shot heard round the world." The Giants won the National League pennant. She was devastated!

She likely had some comfort when the Yankees prevailed over the Giants in the World Series. This was the first World Series for rookies Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays and the last for Joe DiMaggio. The tide turned for the Dodgers in 1955 when they brought their one and only World Series crown to Brooklyn. They

had beaten the Yankees. Mom had died nine months earlier. I wish she had been alive to enjoy the Dodger victory.

By the end of the 1953 season, the Yankees had accumulated five consecutive World Series championships. Each season, it was *deja vu.* I decided to root for a team that had the best chance of beating the Yankees--why not the Cleveland Indians? The Indians won the World Series in 1948 and were predicted to win the American League pennant in 1954. Although I had never been to Cleveland, I decided to stick with the Indians as my team.



Jack McNiff

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

I discovered a classmate, Jack McNiff, who was an avid Indians fan. Jack had lived in Cleveland and had been to many of the Indians' games. He often played the role of the public address announcer introducing the lineups with the appropriate accentuations.

"Leading off and playing Second Base Number 1, Bobby Avila,

Batting second and playing Center Field Number 14, Larry Doby,

Batting third and playing Third Base Number 7, Al Rosen,

Batting cleanup and playing First Base Number 23, Vic Wertz,

Batting fifth and playing Right Field Number 17, Dave Philley,

Batting sixth and playing Left Field Number 3, Dale Mitchell

Batting seventh and playing Shortstop Number 2, George Strickland,

Batting eight and Catching Number 4, Jim Hegan and,

Batting ninth and Pitching Number 21, Bob Lemon."

Through the 1954 season, I listened to many of the evening games from Cleveland through the static on our AM radio. When the season ended, Cleveland led the Yankees by eight games with a record of 111-43. The best record in baseball! Behind the pitching arms of Bob Lemon, Early Wynn, and Mike Garcia and batting champion, Bobby Avila, the Indians seemed untouchable.

New York Giants Logo

However, like mom and the Dodgers, I too was devastated when the Indians were shut out by the Giants in the World Series. The spectacular over-the-shoulder catch by Giants' center fielder Willie Mays during the first game seemed to take the wind out of Cleveland's sails. Despite the outcome, I was committed to the Indians for life.

With the start of expansion to the south and west during the mid '50s, many of the teams changed their fan bases. After the 1957 season, the Brooklyn Dodgers became the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Giants became the San Francisco Giants. Our household conversation about baseball subsided.

My focus at Bloomfield High School and Seton Hall University changed from baseball to basketball. Both schools were basketball powerhouses.

Seton Hall shared the national championship with Indiana in 1953. They won the National Invitation Tournament () championship that year while Indiana won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) title. Indiana beat Kansas 69-68 and Seton Hall won over St. John's 58-46.

Bloomfield High School, New Jersey State Basketball Champions 1956-57

Standing left to right: Joe Moore, Assistant Coach; Fred Celluro; Malcolm Abernathy; Steve Brennan; Barry Elson; George Cella, Coach

Kneeling left to right: Al Glatz; Neil Cavanaugh; Chuck Quinn, Captain; Stan Kaminski; Bill McCormick; Tom Clancy

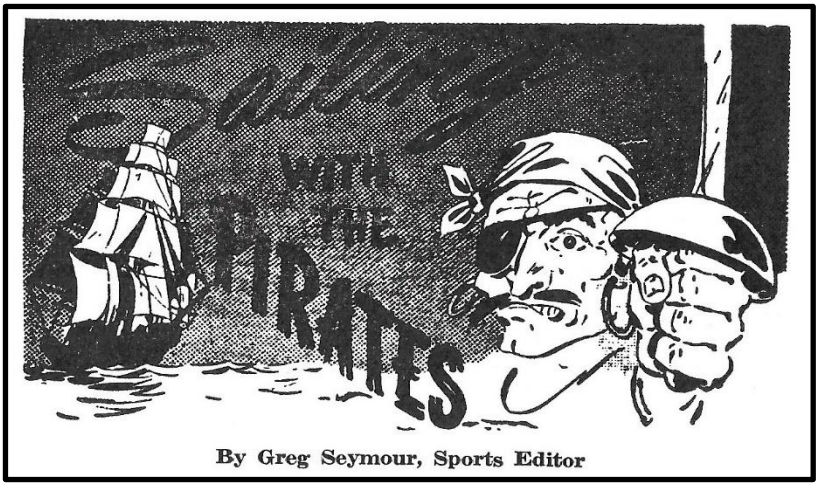
Bloomfield won the New Jersey state basketball championship in 1957 and 1958. From 1956 through 1958, the team had amassed a 64 game winning streak. This was the longest modern day public school winning streak in New Jersey's history. In my senior year, Bloomfield won the state title beating Trenton 51-47.

Although not a basketball player like Pop, I easily adapted to the sports media. I became a basketball reporter for the *Student Prints* newspaper in High School and *The Setonian* newspaper in college. I provided play-by-play announcements over the public address system in Walsh Auditorium where Seton Hall played its

home games. Our head basketball coach was Richie Regan, who played for Seton Hall in 1953, when they won the NIT championship. Before returning to Seton Hall, he played professionally for the Rochester Royals. Richie died in 2002 at age 72.

Richie Regan Recreation & Athletic Center

The Richie Regan Recreation & Athletic Center, shown above, opened in 2014.



Seton Hall never won a national championship during my four years in college, but there were always thrills and excitement to the games. The highlight was an 89-88 thriller when we beat St. Joseph's of Philadelphia in South Orange. St. Joseph's was highly rated, advancing to the NCAA Final Four that year. Overwhelmed by the excitement, I dropped the microphone on my courtside announcer's table and ran out into an onslaught of happy fans. I watched as St. Joseph's hawk mascot was no longer flapping his wings.

As a reporter, I remember going to many of the away games, including Villanova at the Palestra in Philadelphia, Loyola in Baltimore, Iona in New Rochelle, and several at Madison Square Garden. Oscar Robertson of Cincinnati, Jerry West of West Virginia, and John Havilicek of Ohio State were the big name players.

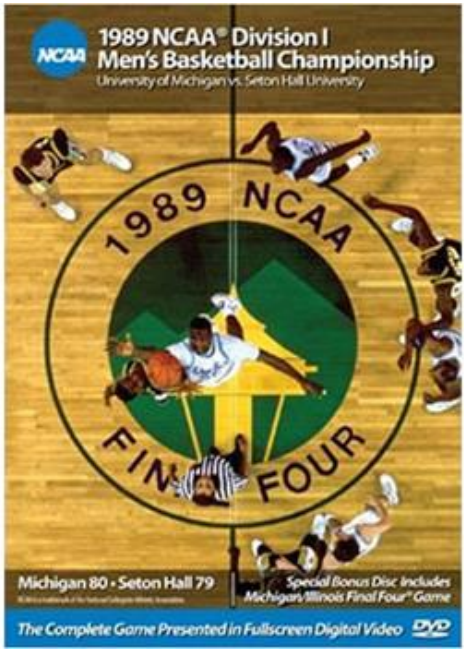
Little League baseball at Everett Field, Verona, New Jersey

During the spring of my last two years of college, I managed Little League baseball teams in Verona, New Jersey. The teams were in the eleven to twelve year old age group. We practiced at the F.N. Brown Elementary School on Grove Avenue and played our games at Everett Field on Bloomfield Avenue.

It seemed that the teams with the best pitcher always won. The team I managed during my second year, the Indians, had the best pitcher. The rules did not require a different pitcher to be used in each game so we called on our ace, Mark Benedetti, each time. The Indians went on to win the league championship. The championship was won on the day I left for the Navy. A great send off!

My interest in baseball and basketball diminished while serving in the Navy. During these years, two of my relatives contributed to Seton Hall's basketball efforts. Cousin Mark Seymour played on the team during the 1966-67 season and nephew Ray Vincent, Jr. dressed up as the Pirate mascot in the early 1980s.

In 1989, my interest in basketball came roaring back to life. This was followed by baseball in 1994.


1989 NCAA® Division I
Men's Basketball Championship
University of Michigan vs. Seton Hall University
1989 NCAA
FINAL FOUR
Michigan 80 • Seton Hall 79
Special Bonus Disc Includes
Michigan/Illinois Final Four® Game
The Complete Game Presented in Fullscreen Digital Video
DVD

NCAA Final Four 1989

Seton Hall reached the NCAA Final Four in Seattle in April 1989. After beating Duke 95-78, they went onto the championship game, falling to Michigan 80-79 in overtime. I was amazed at how this relatively small school reached the national final. One of their players, Andrew Gaze, from Australia was a large factor in Seton Hall's success.

PIRATES' 2ND-HALF RALLY STUNS NO. 4 WOLVERINES

SETON HALL 67. NO. 4 MICHIGAN 65

Jared Rhoden scored 16 points, helping Seton Hall rally from 11 down in the second half to beat No. 4 Michigan 67-65 on Tuesday night. The Wolverines (2-1) had a chance to extend the game with 0.8 seconds left, but Terrance Williams missed the first of two free throws.

Headline in The Villages Daily Sun

On 16 November 2021, Seton Hall had their first rematch with Michigan since losing the championship game in 1989. It was one of the biggest games in school history and they stunned Michigan 67-65! In the end, neither team had a successful 2021-2022 season. Michigan never made it to the Final four in the NCAA tournament and Seton Hall Hall finished fifth in the Big East Conference.

In 2024, Seton Hall won the NIT championship again for the first time since 1953. Although they finished fourth in the Big East, this was a big deal. They beat Indiana State 79-77.

Jacobs Field, Cleveland, Ohio

In August 1994, Hope and I visited friends in Belleville, Ontario, Canada. In order to use my Delta Frequent Flyer miles, we were routed through Delta's hub in Cincinnati, Ohio. As Canadians, our friends were big fans of the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team. I decided on our return through Cincinnati that we were going to drive to Cleveland to see the Indians. From Cincinnati we drove 250 miles to Cleveland to see them at their new ballpark, Jacobs Field. In 2008, the name was changed to Progressive Field, but it continued to be known as "The Jake."

We were not disappointed. Watching the Indians and their dramatic 9-8 win over the Chicago White Sox suddenly brought me back to my childhood days of the early '50s. I was captivated by the heroics of Jim Thome, Omar Vizquel, Albert Belle, Manny Ramirez, and Kenny Lofton. The Indians were playing well and appeared to be on their way to the World Series.

Unfortunately, a few days later there was a baseball strike which lasted until the end of the season. The following year, the Indians did make it to the World Series, but lost to the Atlanta Braves in six games. They appeared again in 1997 losing to the Florida (now Miami) Marlins 3-2 in the eleventh inning of the seventh game. In 2016, they played the Chicago Cubs, losing 8-7 in the tenth inning of the seventh game.

Goodyear Ballpark, Arizona

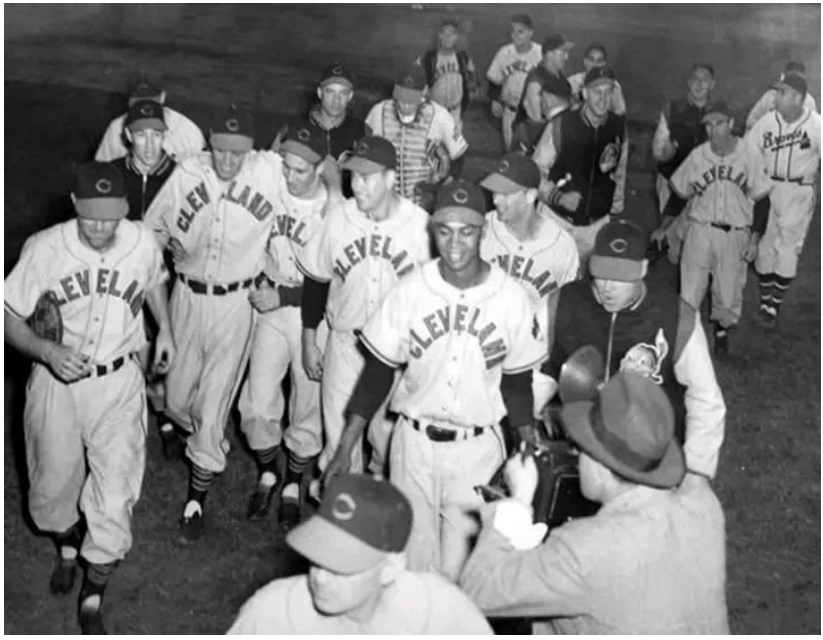
Since that game in Cleveland in August 1994, I've attended dozens of Indians spring training games both in Florida and Arizona. Also regular season games against the Rays at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida. The Indians moved their spring training operations from Winter Haven, Florida to Goodyear, a suburb of Phoenix, Arizona in 2009. When flying to Phoenix for spring training, I also get to see my son, Steve and grandson, Ian who live in the area. They are Diamondbacks fans.

Guardians and Indians Logos

After the Indians' "Chief Wahoo" logo came under criticism as part of the Native American mascot controversy, the team searched for a new name. Guardians was adopted at the start of the 2022 season. The name was derived from the eight monolithic sculptures on the Hope Bridge adjacent to their home base, Progressive Field. Although the name was changed to Progressive Field in 2008, it has continued to be known as "The Jake."

During 2022, the Guardians won the American League Central title with a 92-70 record, but lost to the New York Yankees in the playoffs. Although they finished third in their second year, they now have a young manager, Stephen Vogt, and a pool of talented rookies. *Will the name change and their youthful staff bring the Guardians a stroke of luck?*

Is there a World Series title in their future? Or for that matter, will Seton Hall under their new coach, Shaheen Holloway, ever reach the national championships again? Cleveland is due and I have high hopes that they will win another World Series during my lifetime.



1948 World Series Champions .

The photo above shows Cleveland players after beating the Braves 4-3 in Game Six of the World Series at Braves Field in Boston on 11 October 1948. My favorite players were pitchers Bob Feller, Mike Garcia, Satchel Paige and Bob Lemon; Outfielders Larry Doby and Dale Mitchell; Infielders Ray Boone, Joe Gordon, Lou Boudreau (Player/Manager), Eddie Robinson and Al Rosen; and catcher Jim Hegan.

It's been a long drought since 1948.

Memoir of 219 Berkeley Avenue 1940-1956

I have countless memories of my childhood years at our home at 219 Berkeley Avenue in Bloomfield, New Jersey. They range from the excitement of seeing the first snowfall of the season to the despair of seeing my mother taken to the hospital on the night she died. Having grown up in this house from 1940 to 1956, I have many fond memories of times spent in each room and playing outside. Although I only lived there from ages one through sixteen, it now seems like a lifetime.

219 Berkeley Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey June 2019

The 2019 Google street view below reflects an improved appearance when compared to the photo I took in 2002.

219 Berkeley Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey April 2002

My father (Pop) and mother (Mom) moved to 219 Berkeley Avenue from our apartment at 230 Washington Street in Orange, New Jersey in 1940. I was a one-year-old and my older sister, Tina, was on the way. The home provided the space we needed and allowed Pop to be closer to the General Electric plant where he worked during the war.

Pop, Tina 4, Cindy 6 months, Greg 5 and Mom - Summer 1945

Tina 4, Cindy 6 months, and Greg 5 - Summer 1945

However, in 1945, my sister, Cindy, was born. Two years later came my sister, Kate. Cindy and Kate had a very close relationship. I wanted a baby brother. When Mom was expecting, I went to school and announced that a boy was on the way.

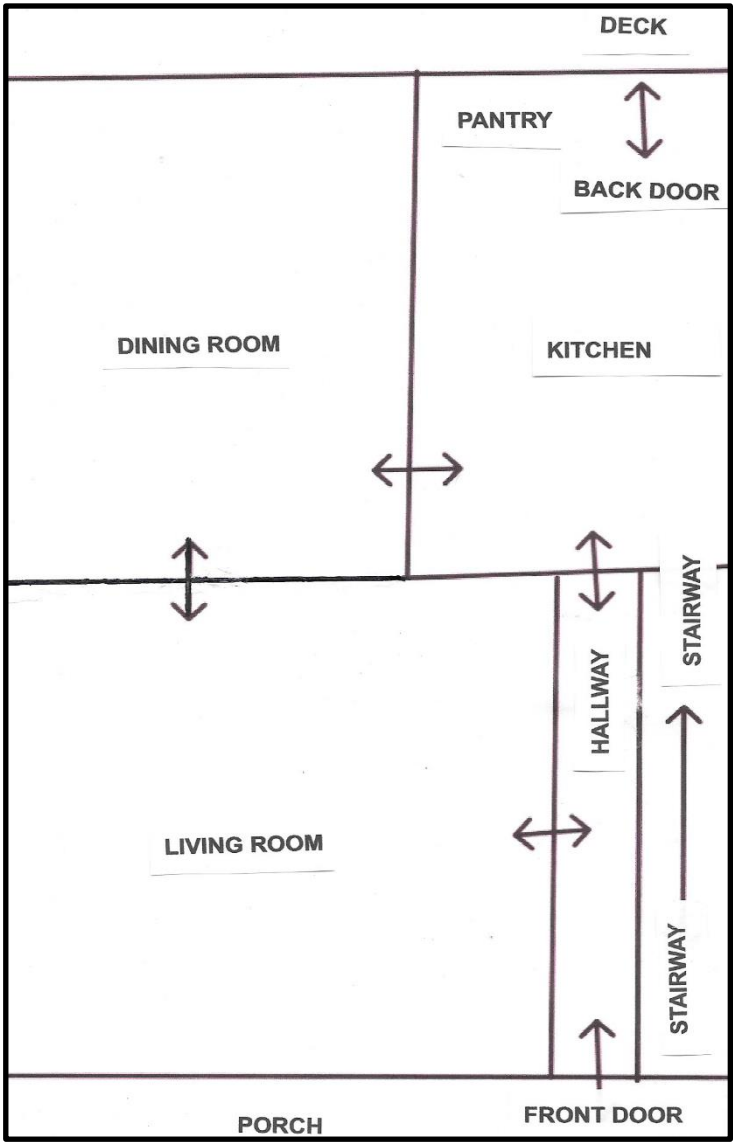
Tina with Ball - In late 40s

Kate 3, Cindy 5, Tina 9, and Greg 10 - July 1950

Our three-story home, built in 1912, had several modest rooms. Across the front of the house was an enclosed porch. Pop replaced the windows with screens when the weather became warmer. I became known as the window washer. During the summer, I sat on the porch eating popsicles looking forward to the arrival of a late afternoon thunderstorm to refresh the air. The door to the porch had a small slot for the mailman to deliver our mail. We didn't have "junk mail," so the slot accommodated most of our mail. Inside was the front door that opened to a hallway leading to a staircase to the second floor and a door to the kitchen.

Greg at door to front porch - 1953

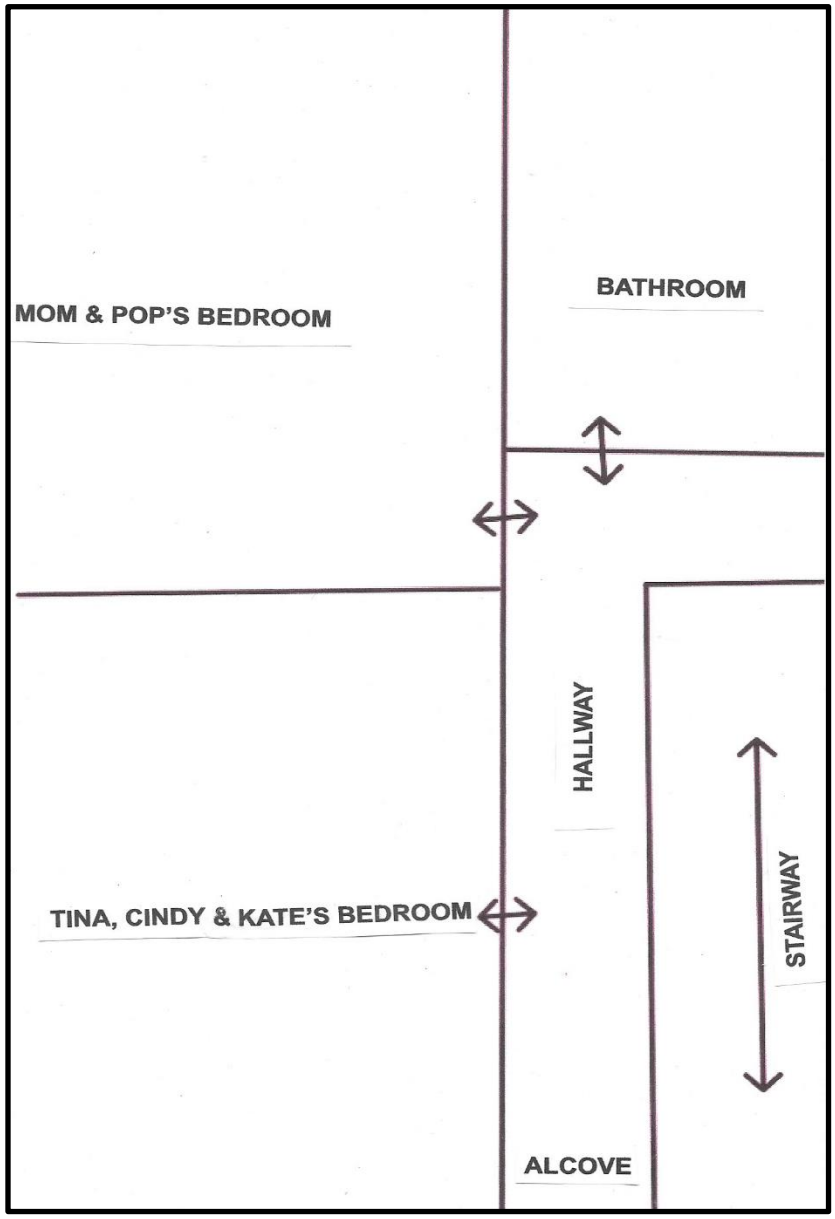
Our living room was on the first floor in the front of the house. To the rear of the living room was the dining room which had a swinging door to the kitchen. Behind the kitchen was a pantry and storage area for fruits and vegetables leading to the back door. The original stoop outside the back door was later replaced by a small deck. Below is a sketch of the first floor from the entryway to the house.



219 Berkeley Avenue First Floor

On the second floor there was a front and a back bedroom. The front bedroom was for my sisters and the back was for mom and pop. The second floor hallway had a small bathroom. It was the only functional bathroom in the house. In the front, there was an

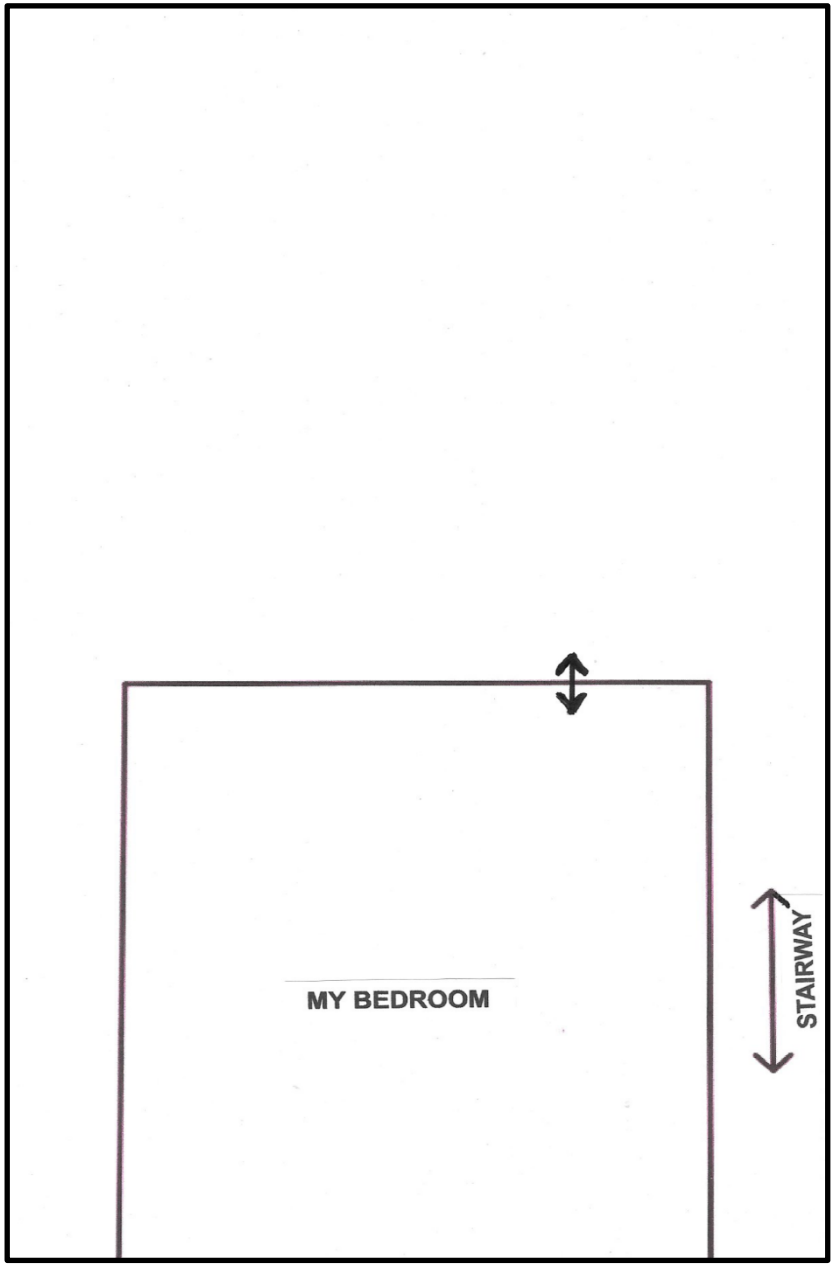
alcove with a doorway leading to a stairway to the third floor (attic). I remember a baby crib occupying most of this space.



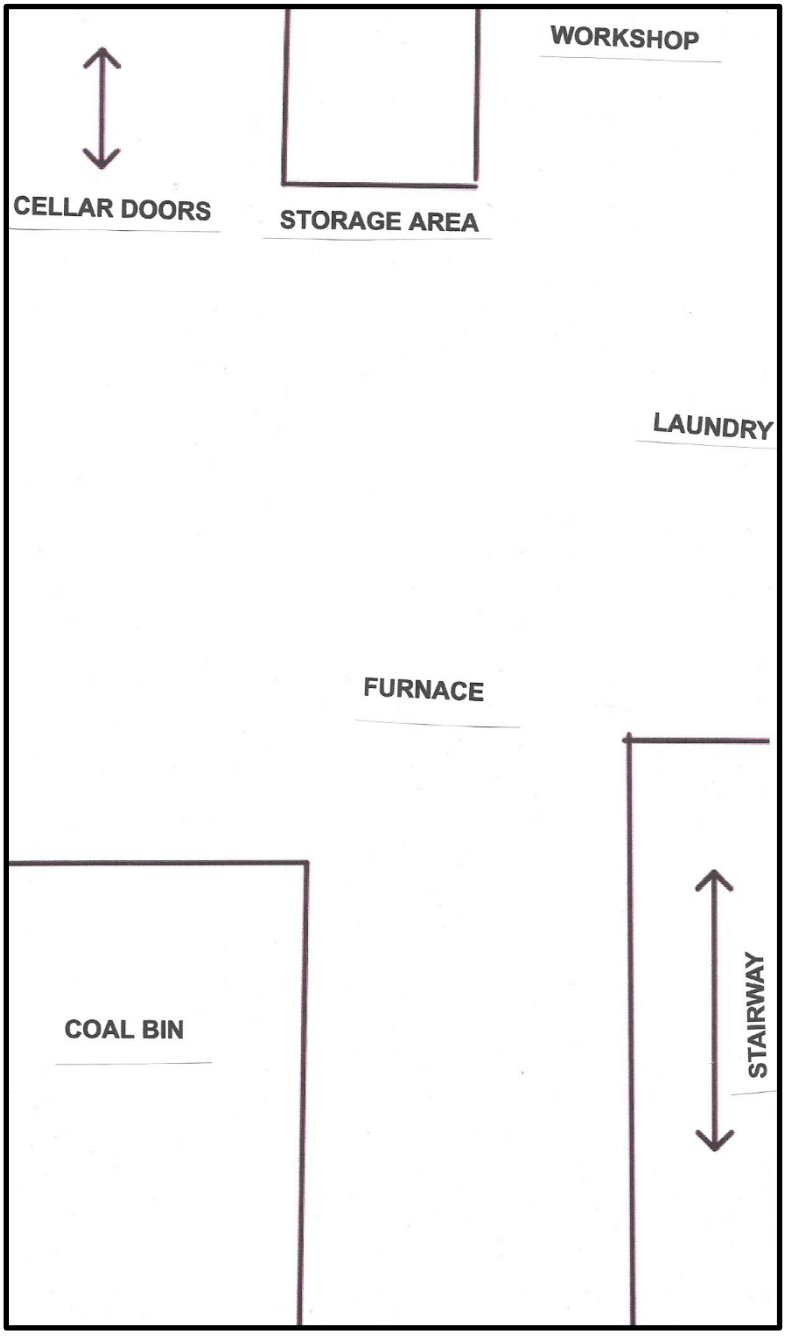
219 Berkeley Avenue Second Floor

On the third floor there was a finished bedroom in the front. As the only boy, this was my room. Below is a sketch of the third floor. I had plenty of room for my train set and crystal radio. There was only one radiator, with barely enough heat to keep me warm in winter. Since there was no toilet, I had to improvise and often took the liberty of peeing out the window. Still, I had the whole floor to myself, so I was not one to complain.

Also below is a sketch of our basement.



219 Berkeley Avenue Third Floor



219 Berkeley Avenue Basement

Delivering Coal on Chute to Basement

Coal Burning Furnace and Gas Water Heater

We reached the basement by a stairway from the kitchen. There was a bin where coal was delivered through a basement window from a truck in the driveway. During winter, the coal was shoveled into the furnace producing steam for cast iron radiators throughout the house. We knew it would get warmer when we heard the radiators making hissing sounds. Hot water was produced by a gas

heater next to the furnace. .The furnace was later converted to gas. We used portable fans for cooling in summer.

There was also an area used for laundry with a tub, washer, and clothesline for drying. In the back was a shop with a workbench, tools, and various hardware items. Next to the shop was an enclosed storage area, which had a toilet inside that was never used.

Cellar Doors

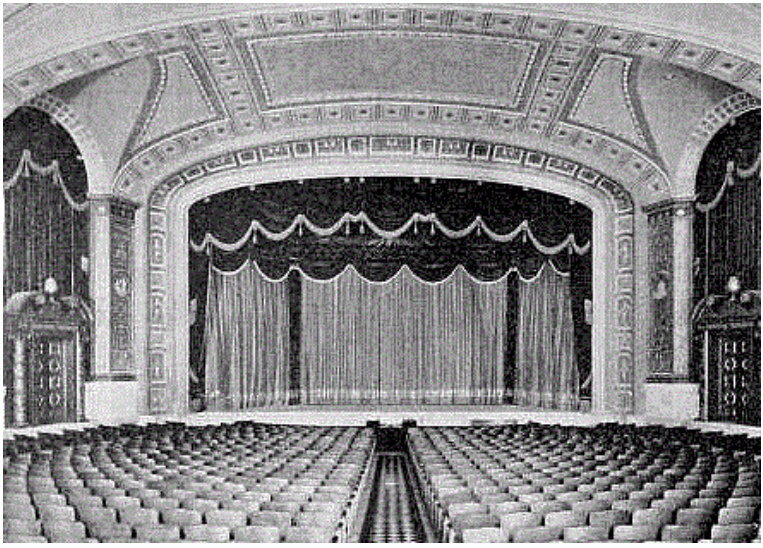
Leading to the backyard were steps to two cellar doors shown above.

Orange Crate Workshop

I enjoyed using the workbench to build a wide variety of items from leftover orange crates I got from the Acme Grocery store near the corner. These ranged from playhouses to tables and chairs. On one visit to the store, I helped myself to a package of Kool-Aid, when I knew it was wrong.

Center Theater, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Empty soda bottles were kept by the steps to the cellar doors. On Saturday morning I returned the bottles to the store for refunds. The refund money allowed me to see the matinee movie at the Center or Royal Theater. The cost of a ticket at the Center Theater was ten cents, while the more elaborate Royal Theater charged twenty-five cents.



Royal Theater, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Overhead View of 219 Berkeley Avenue

Behind our house was a detached three-car garage as shown in the overhead view above. Pop rented the first bay to a family in the apartment house across the street. This car often became the target of our childish pranks, when we played in the garage. Acts like urinating in the gas tank and letting air out of the tires. Fortunately, we never got caught. The middle bay was for our family car which was a 1939 Plymouth Coupe, then a 1942 Dodge Coupe, and then a

1951 Ford Country Squire station wagon. The vehicles shown below are similar to our cars, except for the white wall tires. The third bay was for yard items such as rakes, a hand lawn mower and hedge clippers. It was sometimes our play area.

1939 Plymouth Coupe

1942 Dodge Coupe

1951 Ford Country Squire Station Wagon

From the garage to the street was a gravel driveway. Along the driveway a magnolia tree stood tall and ready to be climbed. A dogwood tree was in front. A sidewalk went around the other side of the house. Along the sidewalk was a vegetable garden, lilac bush, and lead pipes connected to serve as our playground equipment. During spring we had daffodils along the sidewalk. During summer Pop planted tomatoes, carrots, and rhubarb in the garden.

In our relatively large kitchen we were required to sit down together for breakfast and dinner. We would try to share in doing the dishes. At 8 A.M. each weekday morning, we listened to the "CBS World News Roundup." Mom listened to "Arthur Godfrey" and "Don McNeill's Breakfast Club." After dinner in the evening we sat by the radio and listened to shows like "Fibber McGee and Molly," "The Great Gildersleeve," "Jack Benny," and the "Lone Ranger."

The kitchen was where my sister, Cindy, fell from her high chair and broke her leg. She was about a year old and was just learning to walk. It was where Pop stayed home and cooked while Mom was in the hospital when my sisters were born. He always seemed to slow- cook oatmeal overnight. It was where home-made cooked jellies were cooked and preserved in Ball jars sealed with rubber gaskets and placed in the pantry.

Milk Delivery from O'Dowd's Dairy

The kitchen stoop was where the milkman from O'Dowd's Dairy delivered our milk. Fresh from the dairy farm in Pine Brook. The cream was on top of the bottle.

One day we accidentally placed a small terrarium containing my two pet turtles on top of the oven. Between the bright sun and the hot oven our turtles were cooked. Pop often read from the comics, "funny papers," starting with "Blondie and Dagwood." Overall, it was the social center for our home.

The dining room was for Sunday dinners and entertaining. Our first telephone was installed there during the late 1940s. It was a black table phone without a rotary dial built by Western Electric. We had to call the operator in order to place a call, however, we did not have a party line. When the rotary dial feature was added in 1951, we could direct dial through the local exchange. Even though they were only a few blocks away, it was a novelty calling our Higgins grandparents at BL (Bloomfield) 2-3029. Our number started with PI(Pilgrim)8.

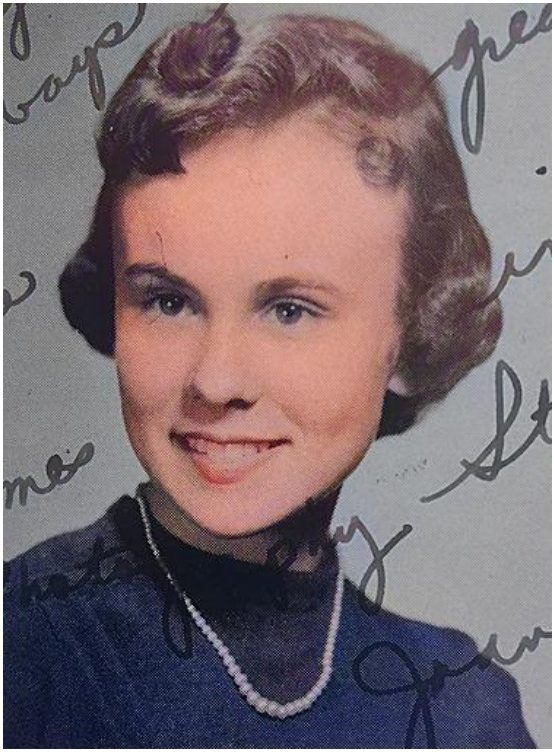
Rotary telephone like ours

The dining room was where Mom would take out her manual typewriter to help me prepare reports for my school. I was impressed by her typing efficiency. It was likely a skill she acquired while working at the National Biscuit Company (Nabisco). It was

where Pop spent hours going through his stamp collection. I wondered how he acquired so many of them. The dining room walls were often marked with crayons when my younger sisters got tired of using their coloring books.

TV with Magnifying Glass

Before we owned our first television set, we went next door to Bill and Lilly Wackenhuth's, at 221 Berkeley Avenue. They lived on the first floor of a two-family home. Ed and Helen Mahoney lived on the second floor. Ed was a foreman at a dairy company. They had a teenage daughter Arlene. The Wackenhuth's owned a 5 inch television set we viewed through a screen magnifier resembling a fish tank. It was similar to the set in the photo above. I'm sure it was Bill's doing, since he was an engineer on the forefront of new technology. He worked in the auto industry and each year the newest model Chevrolet would magically appear in his driveway. Lilly loved cats and frequently called, "Here kitty, kitty, kitty."



Joan Wackenhuth

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

The Wackenhuth's oldest daughter, Joan, was one of my high school classmates. She was an honor student and out of my league. She died at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida in 2002, at age 63.

1949 Philco 12 inch television

Our first television set was installed in the living room. It was a 1949 Black and White Philco on a table with a twelve inch screen and built-in antenna. The cost was in the $250 range. That would be over $3,000 in 2023. I found our set easy to repair. I would look for the tube that was not lighted. Then I would go to the corner store, check it on a tube tester, like the one shown below and buy a replacement.

Tube Tester at Corner Store

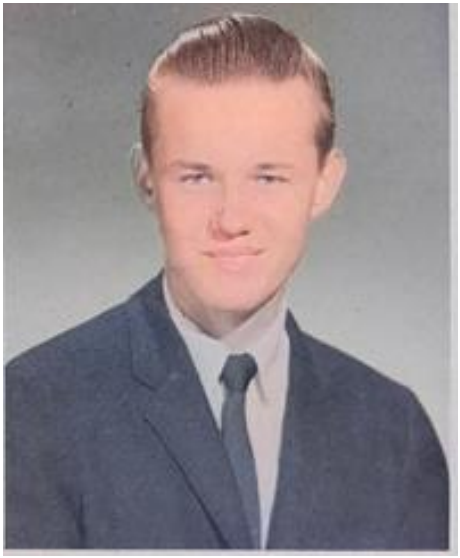
Mom watched the Brooklyn Dodgers playing at Ebbets Field when she was ironing. We watched "I Remember Mama" with Peggy Wood every Friday night at 8 P.M. My sister Kate would lie on the floor in front of the television drinking from her baby bottle. Mom and Pop were so excited to see reruns of movies they had seen in theaters during the 1930s. I remember seeing the announcement of the death of England's King George VI on the Today Show on February 6, 1952. This was the first time I felt directly connected to a significant international event.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade was a particular highlight each year. On one occasion we watched my sisters on a broadcast from the Newark Museum over local Channel 13. The station was doing a feature on one of the museum's children's programs. During Junior High School I usually went home for lunch. I watched Mom's soap operas such as "One Life To Live, The Guiding Light," and "Search for Tomorrow" followed by the "Ernie Kovacs Show." I loved his zany and unpredictable humor.

Richard Biglin

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1964

Jack and Maryann Biglin and their son Richard were our next door neighbors at 217 Berkeley Avenue. Jack was a detective with the Bloomfield Police Department. *A good reason to stay out of trouble.* He was also a pilot in the Air National Guard. Richard was about seven years younger than me. He graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1964.



Billy Rodin

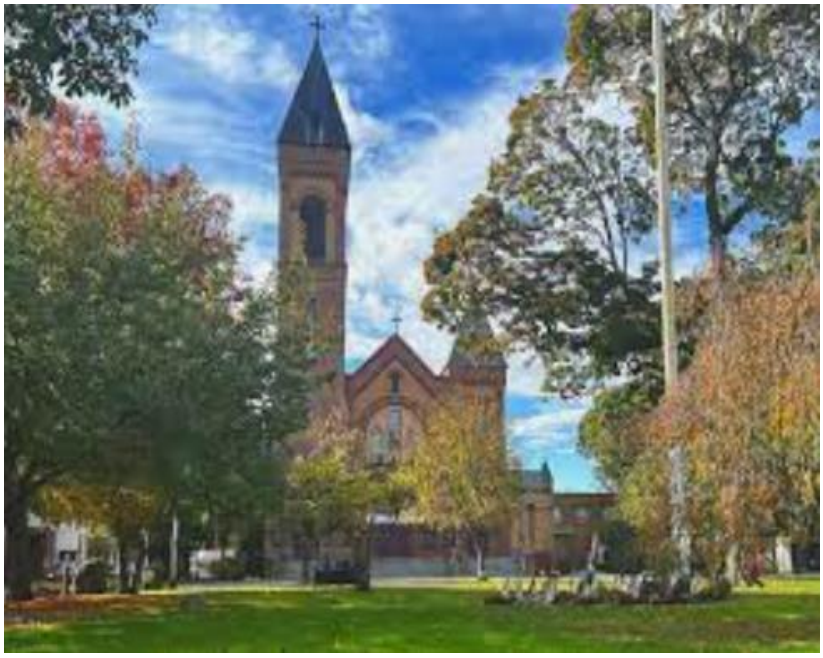
Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1961

Harry and Peggy Rodin and their son Billy lived next to the Wackenhuths and Mahoneys at 223 Berkeley Avenue. The Rodin's were first generation emigres; Harry was from Sweden and Peggy was from Scotland. Billy was about four years younger than me. I enjoyed playing with Billy and his dog Sparky. I was surprised when I discovered his father worked as a custodian at Bloomfield High School. Billy graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1961.

Lydia Merola Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

Lydia Merola lived directly behind our house at 28 Weaver Avenue. She had an assortment of musical talents and I remember the continuous stream of melodies coming from her home. After Sacred Heart Parochial School, she attended Bloomfield High School where she was president of the Musical Monday Club. Lydia is standing on the right in the photo above.

First Communion and Confirmation



Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bloomfield, New Jersey

My sister, Tina, and I received our first communion at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Saturday, 21 May 1949. In preparation, we attended catechism classes taught by nuns at Sacred Heart School. Catechism involved memorization of various pieces of Catholic theology. The boys and the girls were in separate classes. I was warned the nuns were strict, using rulers to inflict pain on the knuckles when out of line. Although they were feared, I avoided most of the punishment.

The night before communion, I abstained from food and drink. At church, I was required to kneel inside a confessional booth and wait for a screen to open. Facing the screen, I saw the dim outline of the priest. I knew who it was because his name was posted above the booth. I remember saying "Bless Me, Father, for I have sinned, this is my first confession…" I do not remember what sins I confessed, but it wasn't something embarrassing. I was glad to get

it over with. I then said my penance (Our Fathers and Hail Marys) and left.

Tina and I arrived home dressed in all white outfits as shown in the photo below.

Greg 9, and Tina 8, at home on day of First Holy Communion

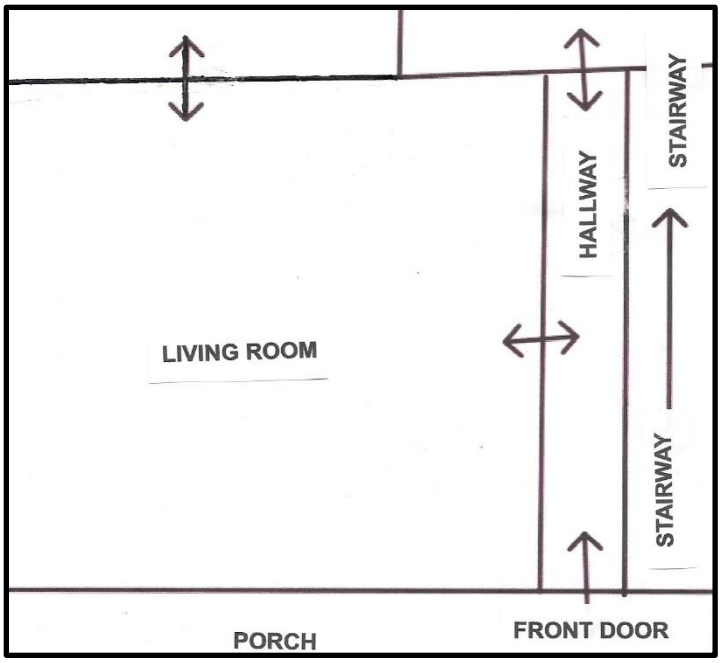
I soon started preparing for the sacrament of confirmation. In keeping with my Irish ancestry, I selected Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, as my confirmation name. Pop's brother, Justin, agreed to be my sponsor. I was confirmed at Sacred Heart on Saturday, 1 December 1951. I remember being anointed with oil and asked to recite my confirmation name before the bishop.

Greg 12, on Confirmation Day

With Pop in the Driveway

Returning to the Living Room

After church, we gathered in our living room at 219 Berkeley Avenue. I was flabbergasted when Uncle Justin gave me $20 as a confirmation gift, worth almost $240 in 2023. He also gave me a book titled *St. Patrick's Summer,* a children's adventure catechism by Marigold Hunt.



219 Berkeley Avenue Living Room Area

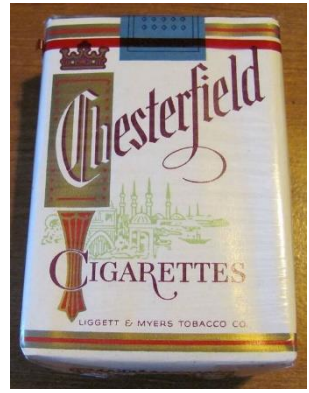
The Living Room

Our living room was where our neighbor, Joe Pfreundschuh *(pronounced friend shoe)*, would challenge me to learn the capitals of all 48 states. It wasn't long before I could name every state capital without hesitation. When asked, "If New York had a New Jersey, what would Delaware?" I was was referred to Idaho and Alaska. (I don't know, I'll ask her).

The living room was where my father carried me over his shoulder as a baby when I had whooping cough. This was one of my first memories. It was where we went through the ordeal of removing old wallpaper before painting.

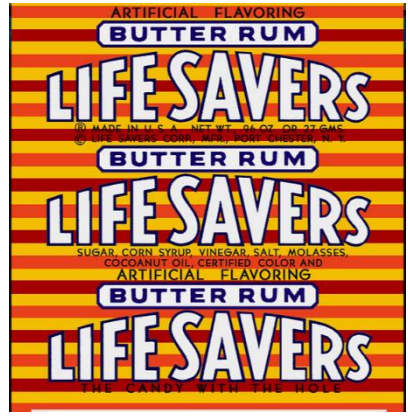
The living room was where I remember my father suffering from a bleeding peptic ulcer in his mid-40s, which led to having three quarters of his stomach removed. Advances in medicine later

revealed these ulcers were often caused by the H. pylori bacteria, treatable with antibiotics. He spent over a month recovering at the St. Francis Health Resort in Denville, New Jersey.



Chesterfield and Camel Cigarettes like Pop and Mom smoked

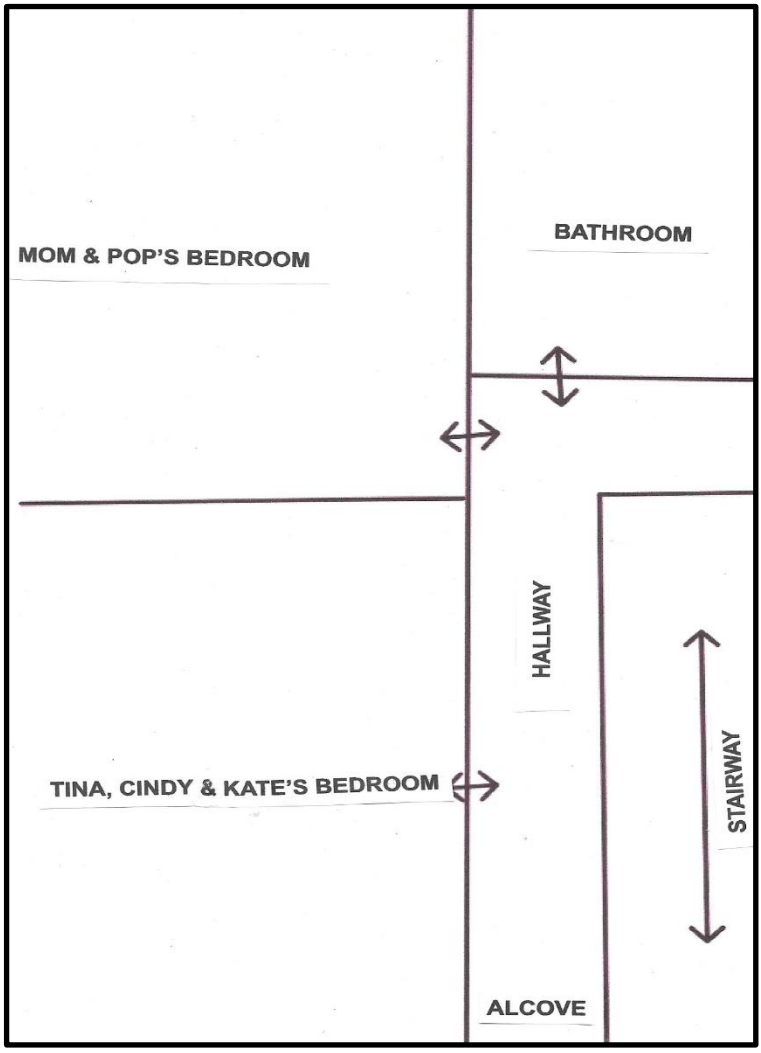
He gave up smoking his Chesterfield cigarettes and took-up Butter Rum Life Savers. Mom had been a Camel smoker and I'm sure she quit, too.



How Pop Defeated Tobacco Cravings

On some occasions, my sisters and I used the hallway as a stage. Mom and Pop sat in the living room as the audience. From the hallway we put on a "show" from a movie we saw. One was from a

*Ma and Pa Kettl*e movie we particularly enjoyed. The Kettles were a hillbilly family with 15 children. Their lives were turned around when they moved into a modern home subjecting them to comical situations. Another movie we saw with a related theme, was the 1950 film *Cheaper by the Dozen.* This movie was a true story from a book about the Gilbreath family, who actually lived in nearby Montclair, New Jersey. The parents were well recognized efficiency experts who felt they benefited from having such a large family.



219 Berkeley Avenue Bedrooms and Bathroom

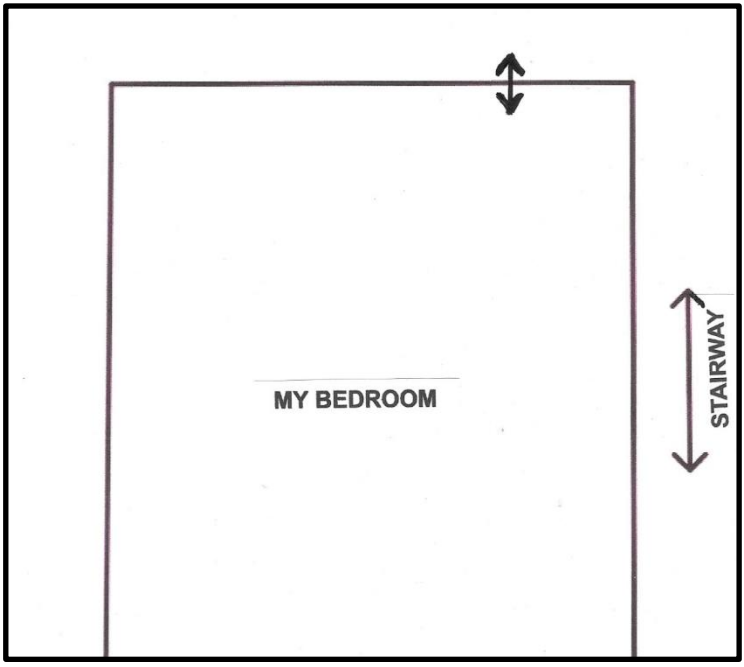
Our bathtub

The bathroom on the second floor was quite small. It had only one sink, one toilet, and one bathtub shared by Mom, Pop, me and my three sisters. We had one tub bath per week on Saturday night. Somehow we were able to manage.

The back bedroom was where Mom and Pop slept. In this room, I remember playing chess with Pop after joining the Chess Club in Junior High School. It was also where I was punished with a belt for breaking the rule to stay out of a neighbor's yard. The neighbor, Mr. Williams, did not want children playing in his yard. Despite Pop's punishment, I could always count on Mom to comfort me.

During our early years, the rest of us slept in the front bedroom. As babies, my sisters slept in a crib in this room or in the alcove. I remember when Pop stained the floor. When the floor dried, the wood grain was gone and the resulting reddish brown color was far from what we expected. The front bedroom bed was where Mom lay hemorrhaging before the ambulance arrived to take her to the hospital. More to come later…

In these bedrooms, I spent my recovery time from childhood diseases such as trench mouth, whooping cough, chicken pox, measles, and mumps. I remember Red Cheek Apple Juice seemed like a cure-all on one occasion. Kate had a particularly difficult childhood since she bruised easily. The bruises were most noticeable on her forehead and shins. We padded her playpen to protect her. Fortunately, she outgrew the condition. Her affliction was later diagnosed as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, an inherited connective tissue disorder.



219 Berkeley Avenue My Bedroom

At age ten, I moved into the unoccupied finished bedroom on the third floor or attic. As youngsters, the attic was the place where the "bogeyman" lived. His hiding place was in a dark inaccessible area across from the top step of the steep staircase. I felt he would jump out to get me as I was climbing the stairs. I was reluctant to go all the way to the top since the stairwell did not have any rails. As I got older, I was tall enough to reach a piece of wood nailed

between the studs above the stairwell. Although I risked falling about ten feet to the bottom of the stairwell, the wooden grab bar held and I made it on my first try.

There was no more "bogeyman," but there were unlighted nooks and crannies on the other side of the attic, I needed to explore. Old pieces of furniture covered with sheets made creaky sounds appearing like ghosts. I found a crimson and gold blanket with the letter "F" from Pop's days at Fishburne Military School. It soon became a fun area to visit during my playtime. Before long, I outgrew my fear of the dark side. Although it took awhile to get comfortable, I now had a room of my own where I slept until we moved in 1956.

Crystal Radio

In my room I had a train set, crystal radio, desk and bookcase with a Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia and Webster's dictionary. The crystal radio needed no batteries. It simply ran on the power received from radio waves detected by the wire antenna. I mailed penny postcards to the Chamber of Commerce at each state capital to request information about the states' attractions. I was amazed at the amount of material I received. It filled the bookcase and fueled my interest in travel.

“Plasticville” Buildings

When I started earning money, much of it went toward my train set and other hobbies. I bought models of antique cars, airplanes, and buildings for a village known as “Plasticville.”

We had a loudspeaker I removed from Pop’s old time Edison cylinder phonograph. I took the speaker and shouted at people walking down the street from my third floor window. This was followed by my father splintering the door frame to enter my room.

Edison cylinder phonograph

When Pop was concerned about squirrels entering the house through the eaves he went outside and aimed his air gun at the eave overhanging the windows on the third floor. This seemed to solve the problem.

The third floor could be extremely hot or cold. On hot summer nights, I covered myself with cool washcloths. In the winter, I put my clothes on top of the radiator at night so they would be warm for the next day.

219 Berkeley Avenue Overhead View in 2019. Our Garage is on the right.

Outdoor Activities

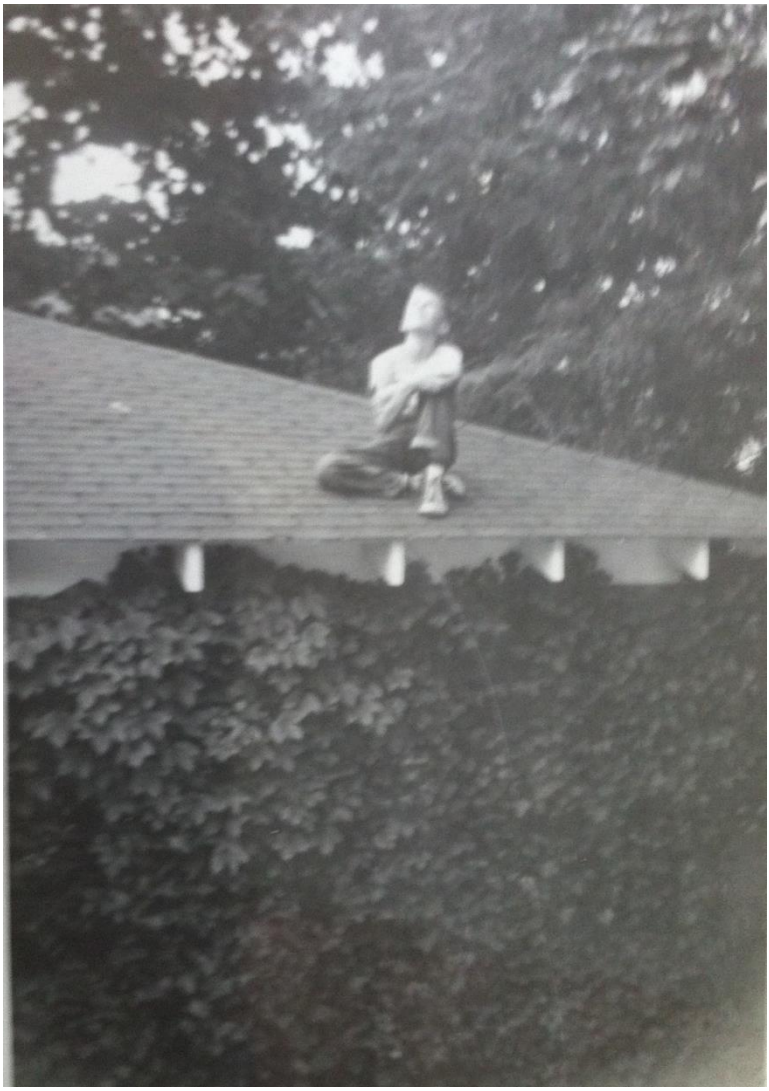
There were a number of trees, plants and bushes in our yard, many with a story to tell. Although they are missing from the photo above, I can still visualize where they were. The dogwood in the front yard was knocked over by a passing car in the early hours one morning. The lilac bush in the side yard was waiting to be climbed and the magnolia tree along the driveway was just right for a treehouse. There was a grapevine on the side of the garage in the back of the house. The grapes were unsafe to be eaten and I learned the hard way with a major stomach upset. I was treated with paregoric which was an over-the-counter drug at that time.

My body also took a hit during a Mumbley-peg game in the backyard. Mumbley-peg is played with an open pen knife which is flipped in the air with the objective of getting it to stick in the ground. Well, mine didn't stick in the ground, but in my left knee. Boy did that hurt! And the pain lasted for months.

Top to bottom: Tina, Cindy and Kate in early 50s

Left to Right: Tina, Cindy and Kate in early 50s

Cindy and Kate at Point Pleasant Beach in mid 50s



Greg 13 on garage roof - 1953

The after Christmas snowstorm in 1947 measured 27 inches. The shoveled snow was so high we slid off the garage roof into our backyard from the spot where I was sitting in the photo above.

Building an igloo similar to ours

We actually built an igloo with rooms inside.

Greg standing in our snowy backyard in 1956

The garage roofs became part of my playground. There were five garages close enough together to jump from one to another. One roof was positioned so I could find my way onto the second floor of another garage. I was fearless and am now amazed how I survived without injury. When my neighbor reported strange noises coming from their garage, I somehow managed to escape without getting caught.

The Driveway

In the fall, we raked leaves into the driveway and started a bonfire. Occasionally, we roasted marshmallows. During the summer months I always looked forward to Pop coming home from work so that we could play catch in the driveway.

Health Issues

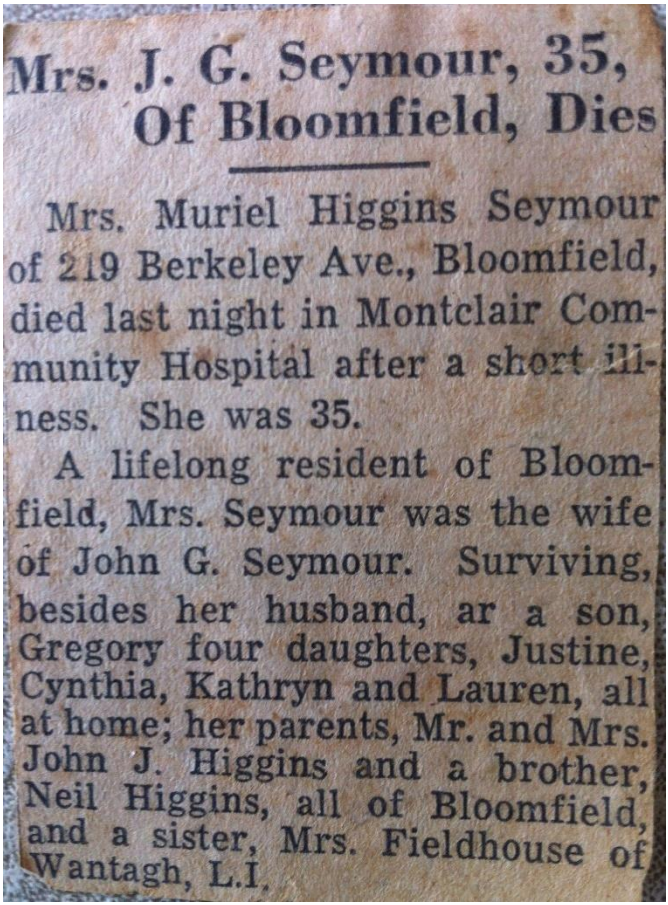
After Kate was born in 1947, the doctors cautioned Mom about having more children. It seemed she was never the picture of health with her reclusiveness and occasional bouts with pleurisy.

When she discovered she was pregnant in 1954, she was told to maintain a healthy diet and get plenty of rest. She entered Montclair Community Hospital after Christmas and gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Lauren Jean, on 30 December. Lauren came home a few days after birth, but Mom remained in the hospital for another week. Since she was likely under anesthesia during the birthing process, the doctor wanted to ensure any tears in her birth canal were healed.

The Night Mom Died

A few days after returning home from the hospital, Mom went to the bathroom and shouted, "John, come quickly I need help." She had started bleeding profusely. Pop got her into bed where towels were needed to absorb the excessive blood loss. Lying on the bed, she cried, "I'm gonna die." Pop hesitated as I shouted, "You've got to do something. Call an ambulance!" When the ambulance arrived

about an hour later, it may have been too late. The bleeding turned out to be a postpartum hemorrhage that resulted in her death. *Perhaps she should have stayed in the hospital longer.* I remember Pop coming home from the hospital later that evening. As he came to my room, I didn't have to ask how Mom was. His face told the story. I had just turned 15 in November. Her obituary is shown below.



Mrs. J. G. Seymour, 35, Of Bloomfield, Dies

Mrs. Muriel Higgins Seymour of 219 Berkeley Ave., Bloomfield, died last night in Montclair Community Hospital after a short illness. She was 35.

A lifelong resident of Bloomfield, Mrs. Seymour was the wife of John G. Seymour. Surviving, besides her husband, ar a son, Gregory four daughters, Justine, Cynthia, Kathryn and Lauren, all at home; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Higgins and a brother, Neil Higgins, all of Bloomfield, and a sister, Mrs. Fieldhouse of Wantagh, L.I.

Mom's Obituary

Afterward

Mom's sudden death had a profound impact on all of our lives. It wasn't long before friends, teachers and neighbors heard the news. *I wondered what they were thinking when they saw me. Were they feeling sorry for me?* Friends and neighbors stepped in to assist with household chores. I was now living in an adult world, doing what I could to help. I remember vacuuming floors, washing dishes and cleaning windows.

When I accompanied Pop to the Peter J. Quinn Funeral Home, he asked me to wait in the car. He felt it best if didn't view her in an open casket. I attended her funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield and her burial at St. Johns Cemetery in Orange. At the funeral Mass, I remember the priest blessing the casket with holy water and swinging a thurible dispensing incense. During the burial, I sat under a canopy in the cold. I remember the slow and steady lowering of Mom's flower-covered casket into the open grave. Then we said our last goodbyes and left.

Every Sunday after Mom died, Pop drove Tina, Cindy, Kate and I to Sacred Heart Church, so we could attend Mass. Each Sunday, we usually sat in the overflow section on the left side of the church. When the collection plate was passed, we dropped in our dimes and quarters. We rarely missed a Sunday. Pop would usually drop us off, then return after Mass to pick us up. Mom and Pop rarely went to church. Although Pop rarely went to church, he had some sense of spirituality. When he passed a Catholic church, he tipped his hat as a sign of respect.

Seymour Headstone, St. John's Cemetery, Orange, New Jersey

After church, Pop drove to St. John's Cemetery in Orange and walked to the Seymour headstone shown above. Mom was buried here as were Pop's father and grandfather.

On the way he pointed to a broken tombstone where our early Seymour ancestors were buried.

Mom's Engraving on side of Headstone

Dealing with Loss

When Mom was in that difficult pregnancy before her death, many friends and relatives assisted with cooking, ironing, housekeeping and shopping. These people continued to support our family during the year following Mom's death. I tried to suppress the pain of her loss by staying busy. I washed the porch windows, vacuumed rugs and washed dishes. I tried out for a part in a play at church. Although the pain was repressed, it never went away.

Greg in *Brigadoon* - 1956

I remember joining the cast of the popular musical play and film *Brigadoon.* We rehearsed on the wooden floors of the Sacred Heart Church auditorium in the spring of 1956. During the show, I wore shorts with suspenders and did a lot of dancing.

At that time, Pop started visiting real estate offices in Verona, New Jersey to check out new places to live. I'm not sure what drew him to Verona, but I was determined to finish High School in Bloomfield using my Higgins grandparents address at 135 Newark Avenue. I remained at Bloomfield High and this became my home of record during my senior year of high school.

31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey 2002

In July 1956, Pop married Lauren's caregiver, Kathleen Eriksen, and we moved into our new home at 31 Kenwood Avenue in Verona that summer. After spending her early years as a toddler with no permanent home, Lauren had now had an abode of her own.

219 Berkeley Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey 2002

When I walked by the house at 219 Berkeley Avenue in 2002, it looked much the same as it did when we moved nearly 50 years earlier. The yard, however, looked so much smaller. *Is it me or is it because there are no longer any trees?*

Goodbye 219 Berkeley Avenue. I will miss you.

Berkeley School
1944-1951

Berkeley School, Bloomfield, New Jersey circa 1920

Berkeley Elementary School in Bloomfield, New Jersey is a three story brick building built in 1890. As a 19th century building, the school had cloak rooms, desks with holes for inkwells, and creaky wooden floors.

In September 1944, I entered Norma Moore's Kindergarten class. Being two months short of my fifth birthday, I was one of the youngest in my class. Miss Moore was from my grandmother's generation, having graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1909. I was reminded by one of my classmates, Tom Chichester, I also attended Miss Yost's Kindergarten class.

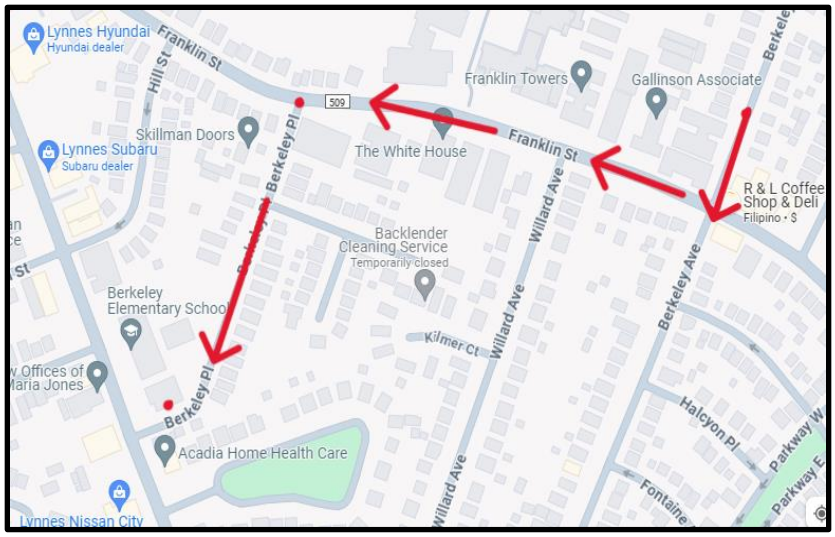
On the first day, my mother walked me to school and sprained her ankle. She was also five months pregnant with my second sister Cindy. After that, I reluctantly went on my own after raising a tantrum. When I didn't go, I remember my mother writing notes beginning with "Kindly excuse" to the teacher. She was so thoughtful in writing those notes, when I should have been punished. Mom was usually forgiving when I wet the bed or bit my nails. Drinking less liquid before bedtime seemed to help. She often tried

to clip my nails, so I wouldn't bite them. I usually wouldn't let her touch my thumb nails, as it hurt.

I was legitimately excused for a few days when the Great Atlantic Hurricane passed New Jersey in mid-September. No damage was done, but I was happy to get a few extra days off.

The Principal, Mr. J.K. Walklet, had an office with a large counter on the first floor. His secretary was Ivey Stamm. I didn't want to be called into the Principal's office. It might result in an unsatisfactory grade in Citizenship on my report card. We were taught how to spell Principal by referring to him as our "pal" in the office.

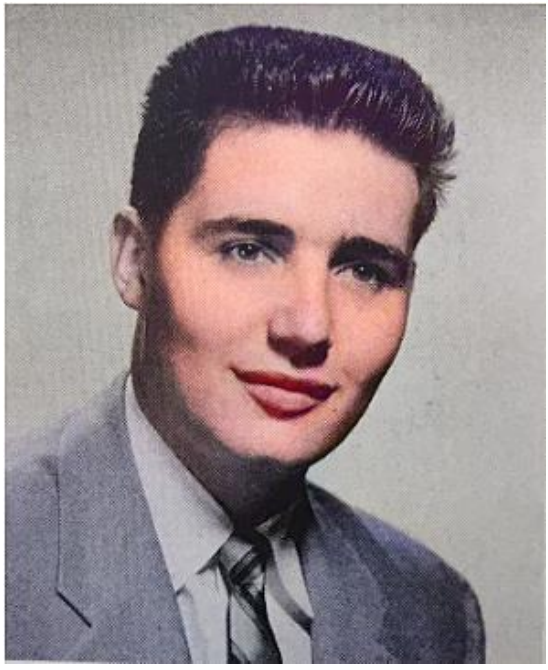
The auditorium and gym were on the top floor. It seemed strange they weren't at ground level. We usually brought our lunch from home. Mostly peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Money was collected for milk. It seemed the bathrooms were never nearby. When I had to go, I was often afraid to excuse myself because the other students always seemed to be able to wait until recess.



The Walk to School

The school was about a 15 minute walk from my home at 219 Berkeley Avenue at the top right above. After turning onto Franklin Street, I walked to the top of the hill passing Franklin Towers, the Junior High and the Technical School. My maternal granduncle and grandaunt, Byron and Helen O'Neil, lived in Franklin Towers. On the other side of the hill, I crossed Franklin Street and walked about a block on Berkeley Place to the school. On the way I would pass the homes of classmates Larry Bizjak, Carmine Accardo, Kenneth Sepe, Bobby Beck, and Marie Pennisi.

I do not have pictures of my elementary school classmates at the time I knew them, so I've used photos from our high school yearbook instead. In elementary school, we used an autograph book.



Larry Bizjak

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

Larry's father was the superintendent of a multistory apartment building across the street from our home. Because we hadn't kept up with our studies, Larry and I would stay up all night cramming for exams at his kitchen table. It may have helped us pass the test, but was it worth it? It was a treat when Larry's father allowed us to watch the Fourth of July fireworks from his roof. We could see displays from several local towns at once.

Jeanie Atkins

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1959

One of my early playmates was Jeanie Atkins, a tomboy in apartment 205. She lived with her mother, Gretta, who worked for the Westinghouse Lamp Division. During my childhood years, she was my first real girlfriend. Upon reaching puberty, things started to change and I realized she had passed the tomboy stage. Slowly we grew apart.

Bobby Beck

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

As a toddler, I played with Bobby Beck as our mothers were close friends. Over time we lost touch, even though we still shared the same classes until high school graduation.

Inclement Weather

On rainy days, I might get a ride in the family car, if Pop was home. Mom rarely drove the car. When it snowed, we listened intently to the early morning radio broadcast to hear which schools were closed. They would go down the list, Brookdale, Carteret, Demarest, Watsessing, etc. Would it include Berkeley?

After the Great Blizzard of 1947

The biggest snowfall I remember came on December 27, 1947, when the school was already closed for the Holidays. What became known as the Great Blizzard of 1947, started without warning on Christmas Day and continued until the following evening. I was overjoyed and didn't want it to stop. The snow fell silently and steadily and by the time it stopped, 27 inches had accumulated. It was the worst storm since the famous blizzard of 1888.

Bloomfield Avenue Route 29 Trolley circa 1950

The Route 29 trolleys clanged away on Bloomfield Avenue and stopped in front of the school. After school, I took the trolley to Bloomfield Center to attend catechism classes at Sacred Heart parochial school in preparation for my First Communion. There was a trolley barn in Montclair for storage and maintenance. Trolley service was replaced by buses in 1952.

Kindergarten

Walking through the playground in the rear of the school, I climbed up one or two flights of stairs to my classroom. On the first day of Kindergarten, we were handed a sheet of paper and a box of crayons. We were asked to draw a picture of a balloon and color the inside. We were given mats so we could lie down on the floor for our rest period.

First Grade

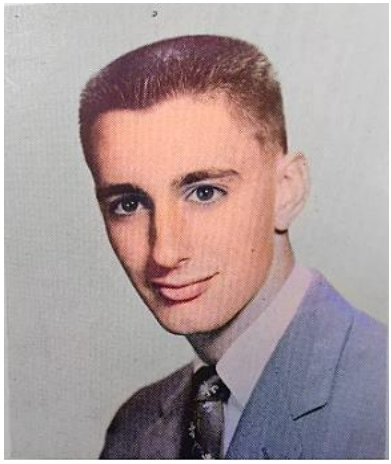
For first grade in 1945, I was assigned to Violet Cresse's class. That year I went to school dressed as a Rampant Lion for Halloween and helped decorate the tree for our Christmas party. We were issued a reading primer titled *Fun with Dick and Jane*. Other characters were a child named Sally, a dog named Spot, and a cat named Puff.

Berkeley School Halloween 1945 First Grade

(I'm seated to right of red line)

Berkeley School Christmas 1945 First Grade

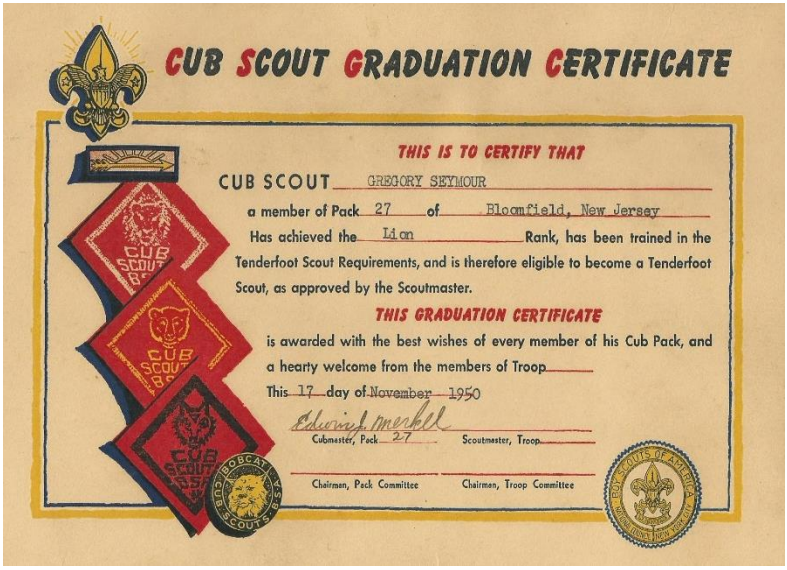
(I'm seated to right of red line)



Kenneth Sepe

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

Cub Scouts



CUB SCOUT GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

CUB SCOUT GREGORY SEYMOUR

a member of Pack 27 of Bloomfield, New Jersey

Has achieved the Lion Rank, has been trained in the Tenderfoot Scout Requirements, and is therefore eligible to become a Tenderfoot Scout, as approved by the Scoutmaster.

THIS GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

is awarded with the best wishes of every member of his Cub Pack, and a hearty welcome from the members of Troop

This 17 day of November 1950

Edward Merkel

Cubmaster, Pack 27 Scoutmaster, Troop

Chairman, Pack Committee Chairman, Troop Committee

Cub Scout Graduation Certificate 17 Nov 1950

During first grade, I joined Pack 27 Den 3 of the Cub Scouts. The pack met in the third floor auditorium. Our summer camping jamborees were at Brookdale Park on the north side of town. Our

Cubmaster, Ed Merkel, lived a block away on Weaver Avenue. Our den meetings usually took place at Kenneth Sepe's home on Berkeley Place. Mrs. Sepe was our Den Mother. At one meeting she asked me to tell a tall story. I struggled trying to invent something that stretched the truth. Today, I would have no problem.

For one of my merit badges, I chose to sing "I'm Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover" during a Pack meeting. Although most people thought I would have stage fright, I made it through with flying colors. On another occasion, I remember winning a flashlight with ticket number 39. It was the biggest prize of the night and the last number called.

On my uniform, I wore a Bobcat pin and WEBELOS badge meaning WE'll Be LOyal Scouts. I progressed from Wolf with Gold Arrow Point, to Bear, then Lion. I graduated during sixth grade – trained in Tenderfoot Scout requirements. I attribute my experiences in the boy scouts to building my self-confidence and desire to embark on new adventures. Below is a picture of me in my Cub Scout uniform in 1953. I did not join the Boy Scouts because we did not have a troop at our school.

Greg in Cub Scout Uniform - 1953

Second Grade

During second grade, Mary McGovern, the school nurse, noted I had not received a vaccination for smallpox because she was unable to locate the identifying scar. My doctor, O.R. Deutel confirmed I had received the vaccination. He applied a drop of Mercurochrome to the area. This left a reddish-orange spot which could not be washed off for a few days. This did the trick. Mercurochrome is a product no longer sold due to its mercury content.

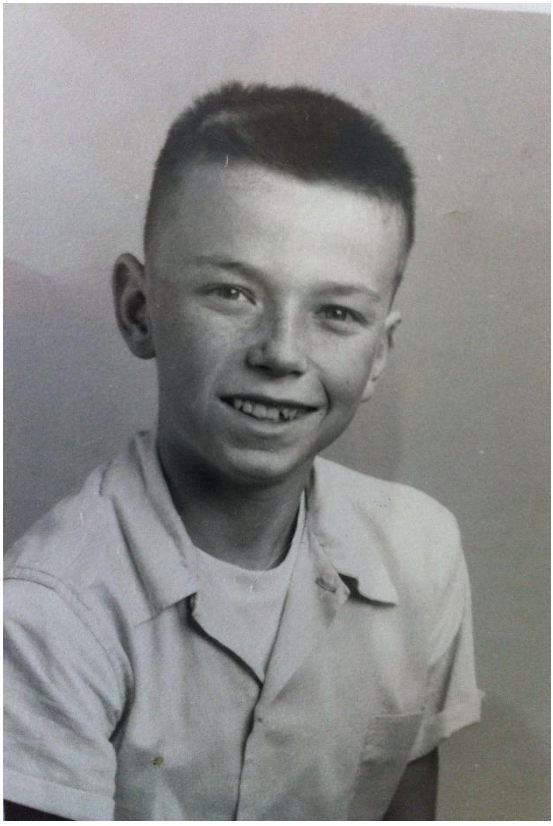
Third Grade

During third grade, my teacher, Ruth Johnson, asked me to speak extemporaneously to the class. She sat at my desk while I struggled to find something to speak about. I likely was not prepared and did not speak very long. When I returned to my seat, Mrs. Johnson remained seated at my desk. When I asked her to get up, she didn't. For some reason she expected me to find another place to sit, which I did. I suspect she was trying to teach me a lesson in courtesy toward others or punishing me for not being prepared. When the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb in 1949, there was fear of devastation. We were taught to duck and cover under our desks if in school or against a wall with heads and faces protected if outdoors..

Berkeley School 1947 Third Grade (I'm seated to left of red line)

Recess

Start and stop times for classes, lunch, fire drills, and recesses were signaled by the sound of a loud clanging bell. During recess we headed to the playground behind the school, happy to get away from the classroom environment. For some, recess provided an opportunity to engage in fighting and bullying. Although I managed to avoid most of the altercations, at the end of one recess period I was pushed into a heavy green door while re-entering the school.



Greg with Chipped Upper Front Tooth

I believe this was during third grade. At the time I felt OK, but after arriving home, my parents immediately noticed I had chipped an upper front tooth. They were concerned because this was a new permanent tooth and they could not afford the dental expense. It would not be until after I joined the Navy that I was able to have the tooth repaired.

Bronx Zoo

A big event during third grade was our field trip to the Bronx Zoo in New York City. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip except for our time at the snake house, which was dark and dingy inside. That night I remember having nightmares about the snakes.

Fourth Grade

What I remember most about my fourth grade teacher, Helen Aspell, was she made sure we said the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer at the start of each day. Our recitations sometimes included the 23rd Psalm. We were all required to learn to play a basic wind instrument called "The Symphonette." Our practice sessions were held in the auditorium on the third floor. After a while, my playing was acceptable, but I was not accomplished enough to join a band. This changed when the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps recruited me to play the sousaphone when I started college.

The Sousaphone

Fifth Grade

Beatrice Peterson was my fifth grade teacher. She reminded me of my Grandma Seymour; upright, poised and respectful. We

didn’t dare launch spitballs with rubber bands when she turned her back to the class.

Duck and Cover

When the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb in 1949, there was fear of widespread devastation. We were taught to duck and cover under our desks if in school or against a wall with heads and faces protected if outdoors.

Sixth Grade

My sixth grade teacher, Marie D'Avella, felt it would be more proper for me to be called John rather than Greg. Nonetheless, Greg seemed to continue as the first choice of people who knew me well. However, it seems that Mrs. D'Avella had a change of heart. In my autograph book she noted Gregory means “Watchman, Vigilant.”

Johnny Covello

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

High Finances

During elementary school, we had the opportunity to participate in a bank savings plan. With 25 cents you could add a green stamp to your passbook. With a dollar you could add a red stamp. I remember that one of my classmates, Johnny Covello, always brought in a dollar.

Autograph Book

While looking through the class autograph book, I found the names of classmates Tommy Chichester, Patty Rubino, Bobby Sheridan, Marilyn Koslowski and Rendel Hagopian; teachers Alice Costigan, Ethel McCormack, Florence Kennedy, Laura Trimble, Mary Laracy, Ann Nucci, Ethel Sorg, Harriett Wadle, Winifred Fitzgerald, Martha Yackel, Marie Reheis; and custodians Louis Gass and Al Jones.

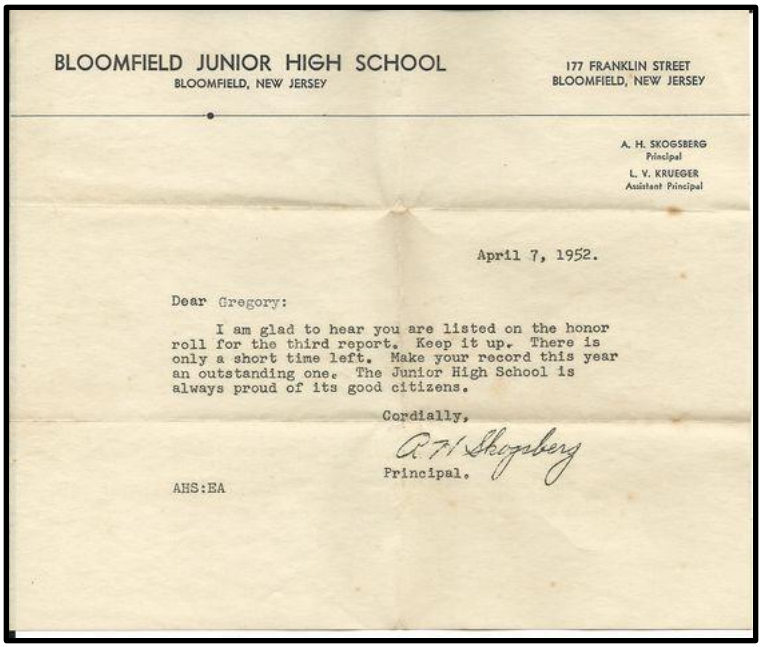
Neighborhood Ethnic Groups

From the English, Italian, Irish, Polish, Armenian, German, Dutch, Swiss, Scottish, Swedish, Slovenian and French surnames, it seems Bloomfield was representative of America's European "Melting Pot." Even looking back at my own surnames, my ancestors were not only Irish and English, but also Italian, Albanian, and Greek. I don't remember any Black or Latino students. The Blacks lived in the neighborhood around Race Street, outside the Berkeley school district. *I wonder how Race Street got its name?* Latinos were not predominant in the area. Pop discouraged me from hanging out with Italians and visiting their neighborhood in Silver Lake on the southeast side of town. Funny, I later discovered Grandma Seymour was born in Italy. Maybe it was the mass migration of Italian laborers from Sicily to America he didn't like. He avoided using the term WOP, which comes from *guappo*, a word in Sicilian dialects meaning a "swaggering thug."

Greg in the Early 50s

My younger sister Tina also attended Berkeley School. However, as the years passed, memories of classmates, teachers, and custodians at Berkeley faded far from my mind. Since I graduated from Berkeley in June 1951, the school has been renovated and expanded. Today, after 133 years, the school is still going strong.

In September 1951, I started 7th grade at Bloomfield Junior High School on Franklin Street. It had classes from the 7th through 9th grades. Halfway between my house and Berkeley School, it was just up the hill from my home. I was on the honor roll during 7th and 8th grades as shown below.



BLOOMFIELD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

177 FRANKLIN STREET
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

A. H. SKOGSBERG
Principal
L. V. KRUEGER
Assistant Principal

April 7, 1952.

Dear Gregory:

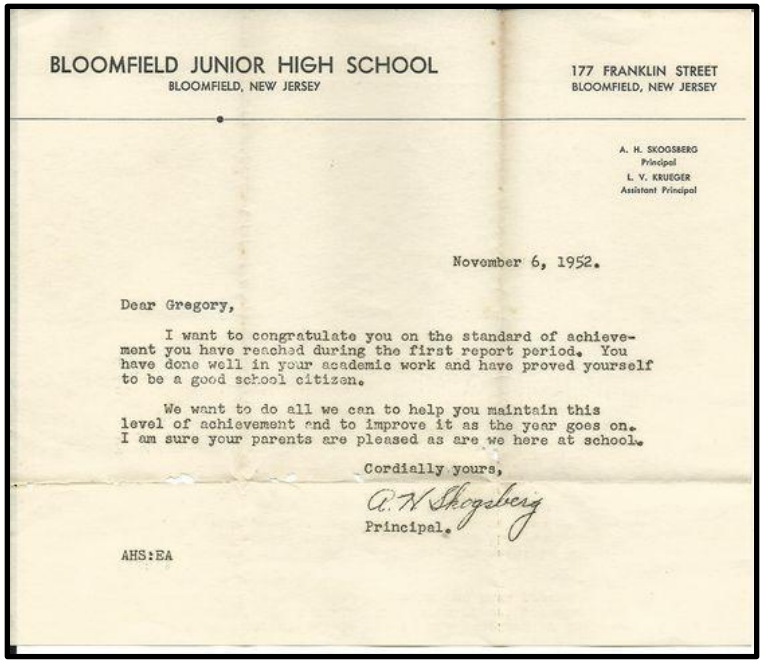
I am glad to hear you are listed on the honor roll for the third report. Keep it up. There is only a short time left. Make your record this year an outstanding one. The Junior High School is always proud of its good citizens.

Cordially,

A. H. Skogsberg
Principal.

AHS:EA

Honor Roll - 7th Grade



BLOOMFIELD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

177 FRANKLIN STREET
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

A. H. SKOGSBERG
Principal
L. V. KRUEGER
Assistant Principal

November 6, 1952.

Dear Gregory,

I want to congratulate you on the standard of achievement you have reached during the first report period. You have done well in your academic work and have proved yourself to be a good school citizen.

We want to do all we can to help you maintain this level of achievement and to improve it as the year goes on. I am sure your parents are pleased as are we here at school.

Cordially yours,

A. H. Skogsberg
Principal.

AHS:EA

Honor Roll - 8th Grade

Bloomfield Junior High school 2002 - Overgrown and Abandoned

When I attended, the junior high was nearly new, built in 1939. It operated for nearly 50 years. Unfortunately, it was determined the school was no longer needed, so it was left abandoned.

Elementary School Reunion

In April 2002, I attended a Bloomfield High School reunion for the Classes of 1957, 1958 and 1959 at the Radisson Hotel in Fairfield, New Jersey.

Berkeley School Classmates 2002

Left to Right: Greg, Janet Smith, Marie Pennisi and Alan Crosta.

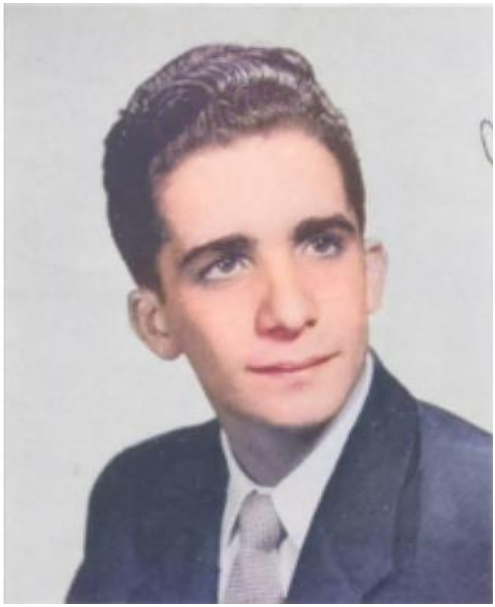
While walking through the buffet line, I was approached by a Berkeley classmate who recognized my name tag. Her name was Janet Smith. We immediately connected with two other classmates, Alan Crosta and Marie Pennisi. After that I connected with Kenneth Sepe. What started out as a high school class reunion ended up being more of an elementary school reunion.

Janet Smith

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

Marie Pennisi

Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957



Alan Crosta

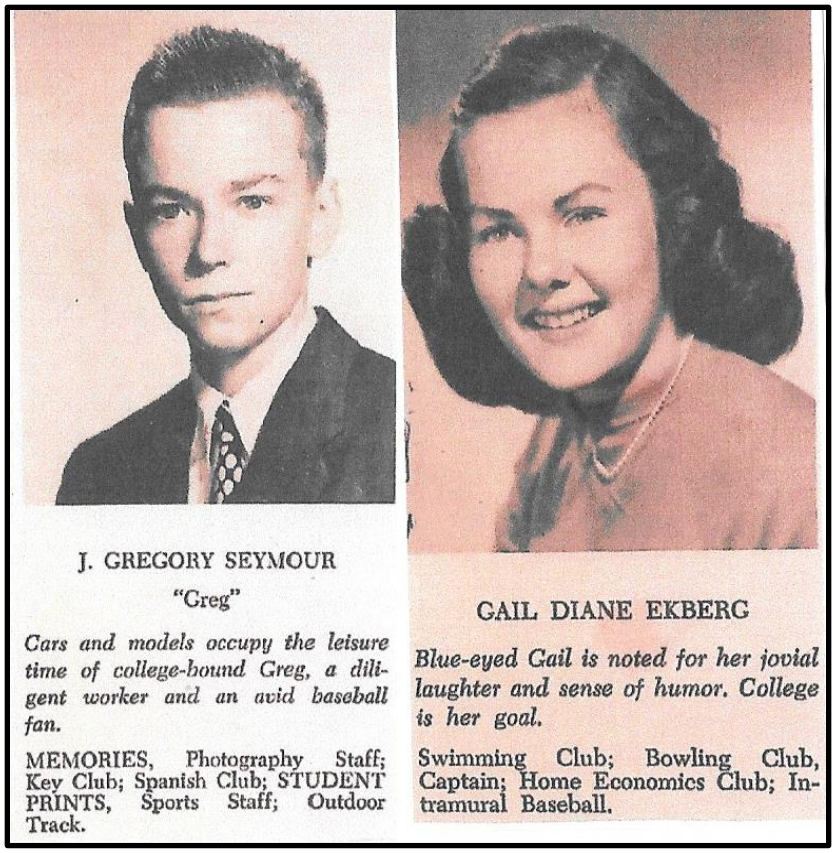
Bloomfield High School Yearbook 1957

It may have been fate, but the reunion program included a list of other classmates who did not attend the event. I saw this as an opportunity to reconnect with those classmates who were now living in Florida. The most recognizable name was, Gail Ekberg, who said she was "Now living in sunny Florida" near Brooksville.

Demarest Elementary School, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Gail graduated from Demarest Elementary School on the other side of Bloomfield Center, the same time I completed Berkeley. Consequently, we were acquaintances during junior high and high school, graduating with Bloomfield's class of 1957. I had seen Gail only once since we graduated 45 years earlier. The occasion was our 17th high school reunion. I was married and living at the Philadelphia Naval Base and Gail was divorced and still living in Bloomfield. .

I wondered what brought her to Florida, so I gave Gail a call. We talked for nearly two hours, catching up on our lives through good and bad times. Our words seemed to bind us together. My wife, Hope died nine months earlier and Gail was unattached. We were anxious to meet face to face.



J. GREGORY SEYMOUR

"Greg"

Cars and models occupy the leisure time of college-bound Greg, a diligent worker and an avid baseball fan.

MEMORIES, Photography Staff; Key Club; Spanish Club; STUDENT PRINTS, Sports Staff; Outdoor Track.

GAIL DIANE EKBERG

Blue-eyed Gail is noted for her jovial laughter and sense of humor. College is her goal.

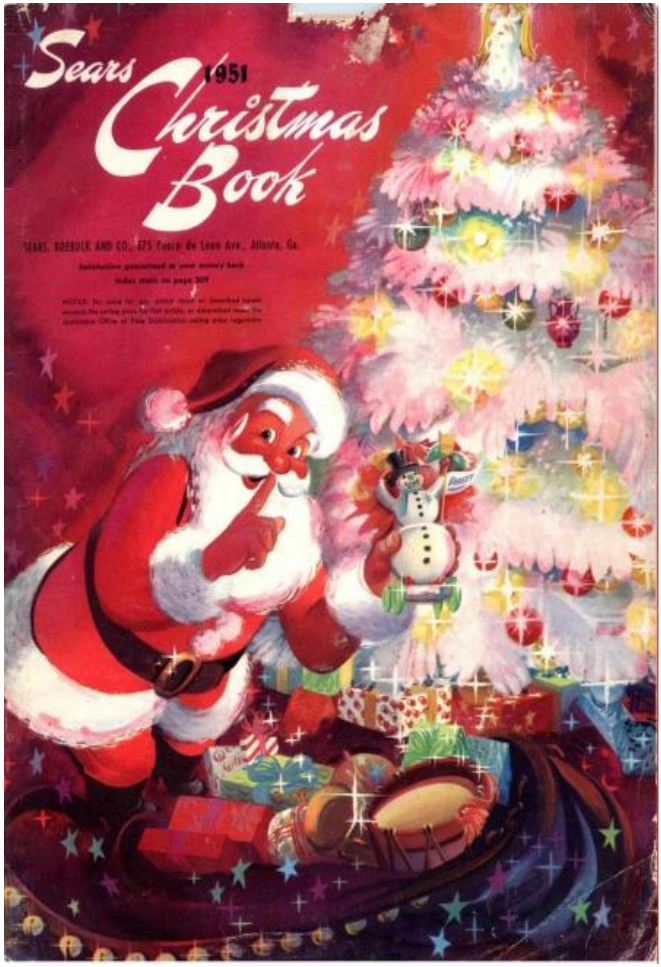
Swimming Club; Bowling Club, Captain; Home Economics Club; Intramural Baseball.

Bloomfield High School MEMORIES Yearbook 1957

Here we are as high school graduates. Looks like I needed someone to cheer me up. She did! This story is continued in my Memoir of Raytheon Part 29.

Memoir of Holiday Memories
1945-1958

Christmas



Sears Christmas Book

Among the holidays of my early years in Bloomfield, New Jersey, I most remember Christmas!

When the Sears Christmas Catalog arrived at the end of October, I went directly to the model train section. Then I looked for cars and accessories that could be added to my existing set. Now it was time to update my wish list for Santa.

As Christmas cards arrived, we displayed them on the stairway railing and on the woodwork surrounding the entrances to the living and dining rooms.

A trip to New York City to see the Christmas tree and ice skaters at Rockefeller Center was always likely since my father (Pop) worked in New York. The decorations in the department store windows and Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall made the trip even more appealing.

Rockefeller Center at Christmas

A few weeks before the Holidays, we drove from our home at 219 Berkeley Avenue to the local Erie-Lackawanna railroad depot to pick-out our Christmas tree. The depot, located on Watsessing Avenue, was only a short distance from our home. There, we found the right tree from a batch recently off loaded from a freight car.

At home, we put the tree in the living room in a ceramic pot filled with coal from our furnace in the basement. There was an excessive amount of excitement in putting up and decorating the tree. One year during the war, when color bulbs were not available, all of the lights on the tree were white. Tinsel was a requirement for a fully decorated tree. The scent of fresh pine permeated the house.

On Christmas Eve, we drove to Grandpa and Grandma Seymours home at 344 South Harrison Street in East Orange. We all hopped into our 1942 Dodge Coupe for the 15 minute drive. By Christmas 1948, our family had grown to four children – Greg (Me), Justine (Tina), Cynthia (Cindy), and Kathryn (Kate). As we left it was just beginning to get dark. I could anticipate the excitement of the coming days.

On Arlington Avenue we passed the General Electric factory where Pop worked during the war and the A.P. Smith Manufacturing Company where my Grandpa Higgins was the Paymaster. On Main Street in Orange we passed my Grandpa Seymours law office and Brick Church train station. We then turned onto South Harrison Street toward number 344.

There we were joined by my Uncle Justin, Aunt Rosemary, and Cousin Arthur and Mark. Justin was part of my Grandpa Seymours law firm, known as Seymour and Seymour. They lived at 8 Belgrade Terrace in West Orange. Arthur was slightly older than me. Mark was about six years younger than Arthur. Both later became lawyers.

344 South Harrison Street, East Orange, New Jersey

Grandpa and Grandma had a large home with a detached garage on a small corner lot. It was outfitted with the finest furnishings. I never realized my grandfather was quite prominent in the community. We just enjoyed exploring the inside of the house. I later discovered he had been the Mayor of Orange from 1908-1912 and had considered running for Congress. The home was built during the 1920s.

In the foyer there were two large vases on the floor on either side. Upon opening the front door, there was a hallway with a large open staircase that went up at least three floors leading to many bedrooms. There was a huge bathroom with a freestanding tub on the left at the top of the stairs.

To the right of the hallway was the living room. It was shaped like a long rectangle with the Christmas tree at one end. Their first television set was placed at this location. The room seemed as long as the house itself. It had a fireplace with an ornate clock on the mantle. Our stockings were hung below. Opposite the fireplace was an exquisite table with a cushioned curved bench. On the table was

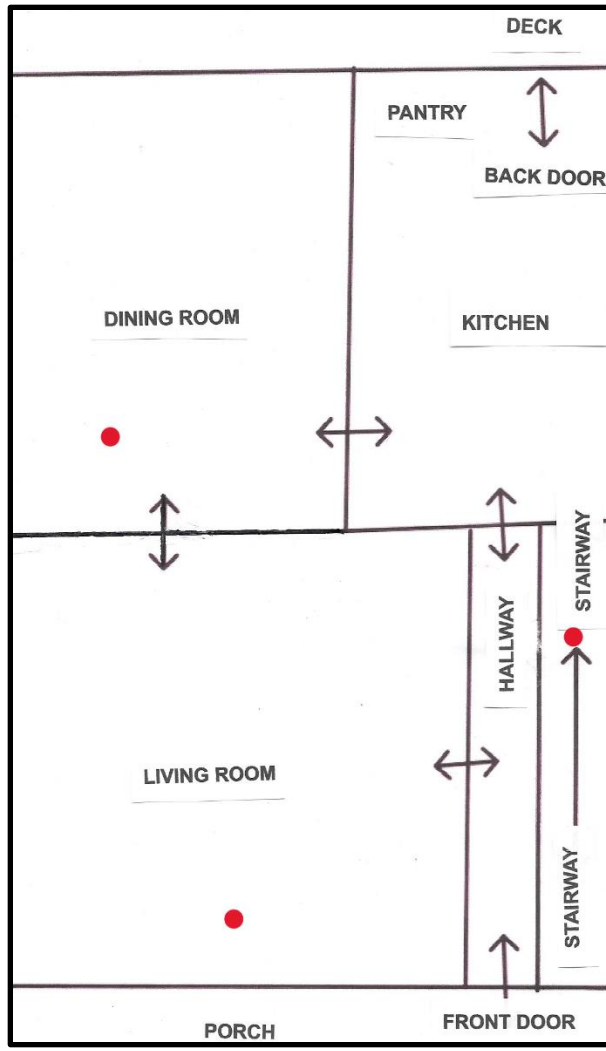
a large tasseled lamp. We played games to see if we could get a tassel to spark after rubbing our feet on the rug.

To the left of the hallway was a relatively small dining room. Straight ahead was the kitchen and an accompanying breakfast nook, also relatively small when compared to today's kitchens. The basement was very clean with a floor painted red. It included a pantry with certain delicacies including maraschino cherries which I could not resist.

Soon after arriving, we sat down in the dining room for Christmas Eve turkey dinner. Grandma had a maid, Lulu, for special occasions. During dinner I mischievously placed my foot on the rug underneath the table to press on a buzzer which summoned Lulu from the kitchen. Although I tried to place the blame on someone else at the table, I was usually caught.

After dinner we finally got to go to their large living room to open our gifts. Grandpa sat by the tree while Grandma assisted with the clean-up. I remember looking at Grandpa and wondering why the skin was so loose under his chin.

The gifts were always predictable--clothes. They were always of high quality and lasted for years. I still have a set of toiletry clippers made by Hoffritz--now Lifetime Brands. The fun gifts arrived at our home in the morning following Santa's visit.



Home on Christmas Morning

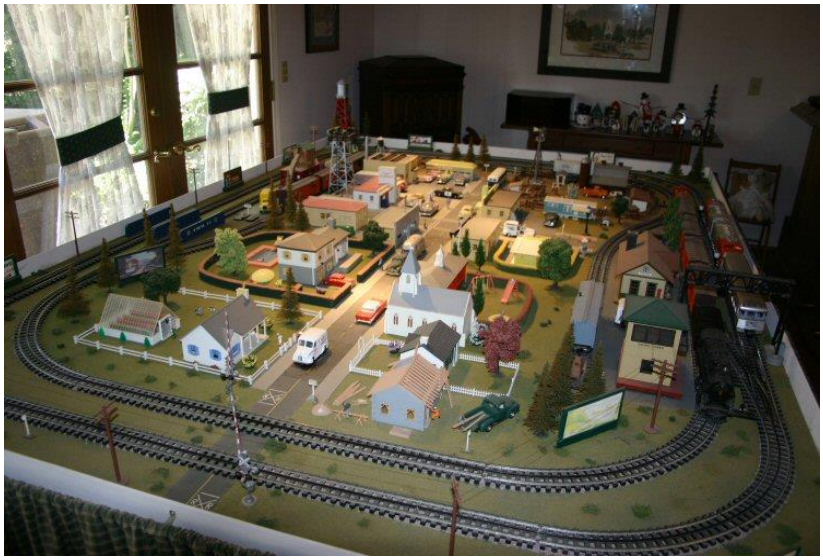
Arriving home, I remember lying in bed trying to sleep against a background of Christmas Carols playing on the radio. Around five A.M. on Christmas morning I went to the top of the stairway to get a glimpse of the gifts under the Christmas tree at the front of the living room. The stairway and the tree are marked by the red dots in the above sketch. I could go no further until everybody was

awake. When we did go downstairs, it seemed Santa never let us down.

Although I had always wished for a bicycle, my biggest gifts were usually associated with my Lionel electric train set. It was usually set up in the dining room as marked above.

Tina's Bicycle

My oldest sister, Tina, received a bicycle one year. The bike had previously belonged to our Aunt Doris Higgins. It looked like the one in the photo above. I eventually got to use it out of necessity when I started my first job delivering our weekly newspaper, *The Independent Press.* Although it was a girl's bike, it served me well.



Electric Train Layout

Lionel train engine

Lionel train transformer

My interest in model trains started with an all metal Lionel Electric O gauge train that previously belonged to my Uncle Neil Higgins. My layout was on a four by eight piece of plywood. I distinctly remember the electrical smell when there was a short caused by the train coming off the track. The rotating light tower and crossing guard accessories are the ones I best remember.

Rotating Light Tower and Railroad Crossing Guard

Over time as the layout expanded, it became a permanent part of my bedroom on the third floor. The layout was disassembled when we moved in 1956, but was never reassembled.

On Christmas 1953, we visited Uncle Neil and Aunt Marion, who lived next to my Higgins grandparents at 135 Newark Avenue around the block from our home on Berkeley Avenue. Since the houses were only a few feet apart, they jokingly said they wanted to live close together.

135 (left) and 133 (right) Newark Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey

During our visit, there seemed to be some tension regarding the size of our families. Neil and Marion had no children and there were four of us with a fifth soon on the way. Neil was a World War II veteran and was in Hawaii during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Mom was not in the best of health. The below photo was taken during our last Christmas together as Mom was at home preparing to go into labor the following year.

Christmas 1953

First row left to right: Tina 12, Kate 6 and Cindy 8

Second row left to right: Greg 14, Pop and Mom

Note the 1949 model 10 inch General Electric television. The advertising slogan for this model was "Daylight Television, recommended by eye specialists."

After Grandpa Seymours death in February 1952 and Mom's death in January 1955, Christmas' were never the same.

8 Belgrade Terrace, West Orange, New Jersey

A family photo was taken at Christmas 1958 at Pop's brother, Justin's, home at 8 Belgrade Terrace in West Orange, New Jersey.

Christmas 1958

First row left to right: Eleanor 11, Kate 11 and Lauren 3

Second row left to right: Rosemary, Grandma, Anne 1 and Kathleen

Third row left to right: Justin, Cindy 13, Tina 17, Mark 13 and Pop

By then, Pop had remarried and started a second family. He married Kathleen Eriksen in July 1956 and their first child, Anne, was born in May 1957. Comparing this photo with Christmas 1953, there was still a feeling of lingering remorse on the faces of my sisters. They missed their Mom.

Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving morning, we usually watched the Macy's Parade on our 12 inch Philco television set. After the parade, we walked around the block to Grandpa and Grandma Higgins' home on Newark Avenue for Thanksgiving dinner.

Thanksgiving 1941, Mom, Greg 2, Tina 11 months and Pop

At Grandpa and Grandma's, we were often joined by Uncle Neil and Aunt Marion, Aunt Doris, Uncle Bob, and Cousin Kim Fieldhouse. I was fascinated when Uncle Bob revealed he flew fighter planes during World War II and now worked for the FBI. Pop usually had the honor of cutting the turkey.

The Higgins' had a piano in the hallway and a large kitchen. Grandma Higgins was the piano player in the family. Her rendition of "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" always stands out in my mind. Kim was a toddler who saw me as her hero since I was able to get her away from the table after dinner to play paper airplanes in the kitchen.

Easter

Easter 1943, Greg 3 and Tina 2

Easter 1954, Kate 7 and Cindy 9

On Easter, we enjoyed the sense of springtime and got dressed up for the occasion. We usually dyed eggs with our color kits on Saturday and awaited the arrival of the Easter bunny overnight. On Easter Sunday morning we found our baskets loaded with goodies on the dining room table. I remember getting a pair of New Zealand white rabbits for Easter 1948. We built a pen in the yard against the garage, but they multiplied so rapidly we couldn't keep up and had to return them.

Snow and Vacation Days

While growing up there were two other types of holidays; those in winter when there was no school and those carefree days of summer vacation. During winter, I remember sledding down the hill behind the junior high school and ice skating on the pond in Halcyon Park. In the photo below, it appears Tina and I were out on a special occasion during winter.

Tina and Greg in the Snow

Greg, 16, in Snowy Backyard - February 1956

Greg 9, and Tina 8, at Forest Hill Park - 1948

We spent summer days at a park in the Forest Hill neighborhood of Newark. We called it Forest Hill Park, but it may have been part of Branch Brook Park. Conveniently located near our home, we drove south on Franklin Street to Heller Parkway, then into the park…about a 15 minute drive. There was a playground and a large swimming pool, usually filled with swimmers. I was still a novice and often found myself in the middle gasping for air.

“Monkey Bars” at Wright’s Field

During summer, I enjoyed climbing the “monkey bars” and playing checkers at Wright’s Field.

Summer at Halcyon Park

At Halcyon Park, we played hide and seek on our bicycles and rode the merry-go-round at Watsessing Park.

Merry-Go-Round at Watsessing Park

These events of my early childhood are memories I want to preserve.

Childhood Travels
1947-1951

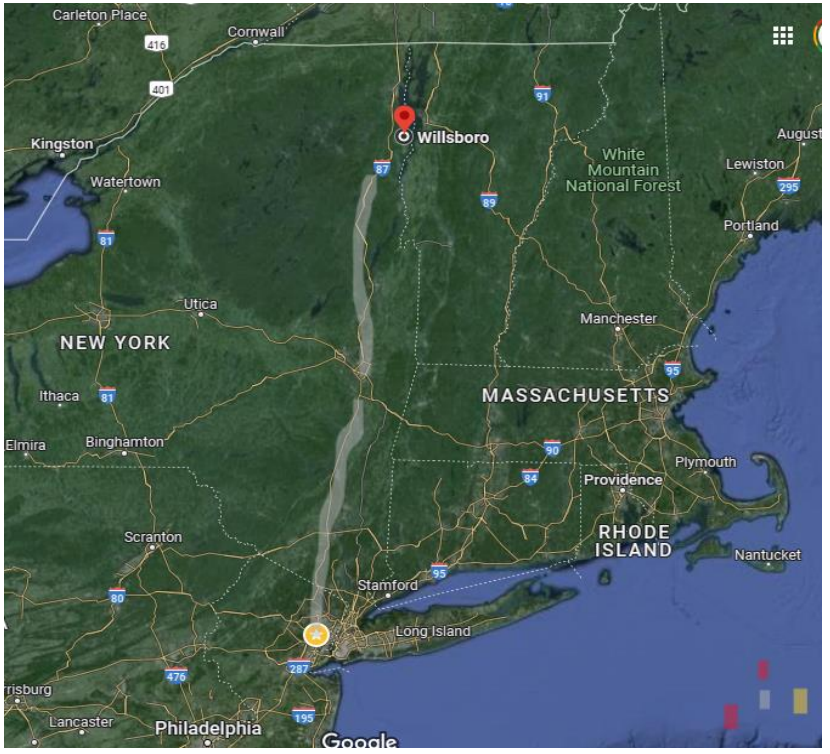
Memories of my travels in New Jersey and New York during childhood centered around automobiles, trains, buses, and ferry boats. It was the late 40s and early 50s, a time before the The New York Thruway and The Garden State Parkway were completed. From my home at 219 Berkeley Avenue in Bloomfield, New Jersey, we made several automobile trips in our 1942 Dodge Coupe. Our car was large enough to accommodate the entire family with Mom and Pop upfront, Tina, Cindy and me on the rear seat and Kate on the "back shelf." To go one step farther, there was a "door" behind the back seat that provided access to the trunk. I was tempted to try it out, but never did as I feared being locked in. Our car had black wall rather than white wall tires as shown below.

1942 Dodge Coupe

Drive to Willsboro, New York

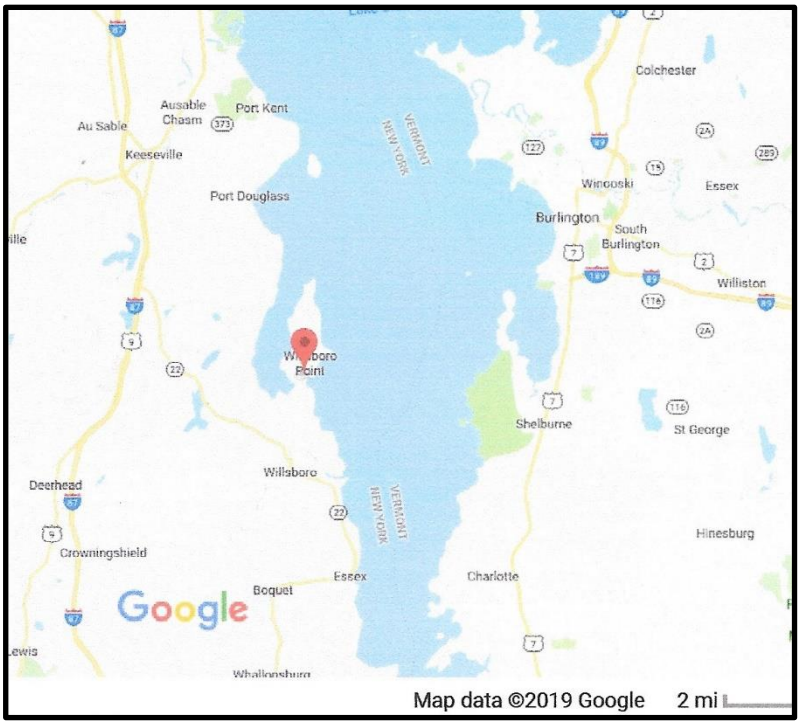
My most adventurous trip was to Willsboro, New York with my father (Pop). It was the summer of 1947. It turned out to be one of a kind. I wasn't sure of its purpose. Research revealed we stayed

with Harry and Florence Teitenberg and their son Tommy. Harry was the brother-in-law of Pop's cousin Frank Higgins of Schenectady, about 125 miles south. In 1940, Harry worked as an Assistant Cashier at the Champlain National Bank.



Drive to Willsboro, New York from Bloomfield, New Jersey

Willsboro is located about 30 miles south of Plattsburgh, New York on the falls of the Boquet River. It lies between the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains and the southern end of Lake Champlain. Willsboro was founded in 1765 by William Gilliland. Today's population of about 2,000 was probably the same in 1947.



Willsboro, New York

The Teitenbergs lived on Point Road in Willsboro as shown above. From there, I could look across Lake Champlain to the coastline of Vermont. When Pop and I visited, it felt like they lived on a dairy farm. The farm environment was a new experience for me, as I had always been a city dweller. I doubt Pop talked to Harry and Florence about business since he was an office furniture salesman and knew little about dairy farming. Perhaps it was to do with relocation. Pop frequently talked about a job opportunity in Binghamton, New York.. It also could have been about money since Pop had medical bills from my sister Kate's childhood illness and Harry was a banker.

In those days travel was slower and more enjoyable. We meandered on winding country roads by railroad tracks and wide open fields. We passed through small towns in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains and on the perimeter of Lake George. The 300 mile all-day drive headed north over Routes 9W, 9N, and 22.

Pop stopped at a town along the way where I ordered a chocolate ice cream cone at the drugstore. After ordering the cone, Pop asked if I really wanted an ice cream soda. I said yes and proceeded to enjoy both.

Tommy and Greg

Greg and Tommy

Harry and Florence's son Tommy, showed me around the dairy farm. He was three years younger than me. I was astonished at how different the sights and smells of this farm were from home. I had never been to such a large rural area.

It was the first time I saw cows being milked, chickens laying eggs, and tractors gathering hay. I really felt out of my element. Life on a farm was not quite as glorious as I had anticipated.

Thomas Teitenberg

Research has also revealed Tommy (Thomas) is now an Emeritus Professor of Economics at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. He graduated from Central High School in Willsboro in 1960 and obtained his BA in International Affairs at the United States Air Force Academy in 1964 The next year he obtained his MA in Economics from the University of the East in Manila, The Philippines. In 1970 he obtained an Msc degree from the University of Wisconsin -Madison where in 1971 he also obtained his PhD in economics. His work had been in the field of resource-based economics.

On our return trip, somewhere near Lake George, we had a flat tire. Pop found a roadside gas station on the side of the lake. We watched as the inner tube was immersed in a tub of water and soap was applied to the surface. The bubbles revealed the source of the leak. A patch was applied and the tire was reinflated. We were on our way in no time.

There were few places with "fast food" in 1947. But there were several roadside stands along the way where one could have a meal along with some frozen custard. This was probably the longest trip Pop and I took together.

Drives to Schenectady, New York

Aunt Rose Ford Higgins (Left), Aunt Lea Seymour Higgins (right) with friend in middle c1950

Pop also drove to Schenectady, New York where we visited Aunt Lea and Uncle Tom Higgins. Lea was my Grandpa Seymours sister and Tom was my Grandpa Higgin's brother. We stayed at their home at 1446 Rugby Road. I remember the drawn out process of making a phone call home. It sometimes took hours for the operator to make the connection and call us back.

The trip to Schenectady usually took most of the day. Once the New York Thruway was completed, we were able to make a round

trip in one day. The Higgins' joked we could now drive up for lunch or dinner.

Trips to New York City and Vicinity

In my early years, Pop took me with him to New York City. We rode the subway, went to lunch, and saw the sites. Lunch at the Horn & Hardart Automat with its automatic food service was a particular treat. On some weekends we went to his main office in midtown. I was amazed by the number of desks and assortment of office equipment in one large space.

Hoboken Ferry

On one trip we took the ferry across the Hudson River from Hoboken, New Jersey to Manhattan. I was about six years old. I did not know passengers were loaded on one end and offloaded at the other. During the crossing, I was so captivated by the sights I became disoriented. When the ferry began offloading passengers at the other end, it looked like everyone was abandoning ship and I was left alone. I panicked! But Pop came to my rescue.

A faster way to Manhattan was on the Hudson Tubes railroad line from Jersey City, but I would have missed the splendor only the ferry could bring..

Port Authority Bus Terminal

When I was older, I took the DeCamp bus from Bloomfield to the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown Manhattan near the Lincoln tunnel. Pop's office was only a few blocks from the terminal, so we'd meet there before going to lunch. During these visits, we occasionally stopped by his office. I remember seeing his sales team sitting in cramped quarters above a furniture store. Security Steel and W & J Sloane furniture, now out of business, are two names that came to mind since that was where my father worked. Pop liked working in New York City. He said, "That was where the money was to be made." I wondered how he commuted by bus each day while having enough time to be productive at the office. On only a few occasions did he bring work home, such as space plans for furniture placement.

There were several day trips I remember. We went swimming at Rye Beach, New York and Forest Hill Park, New Jersey. We

drove to Wantagh, New York to see Aunt Doris and Uncle Bob Fieldhouse's new home. Wantagh was near the post-war boom community of Levittown. We went to South Mountain Reservation to see the deer and to Brookdale to see the variety of farm animals.

Off We Go to Buffalo

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (Lackawanna) Train 1950s

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (Lackawanna) Railroad

Route Map

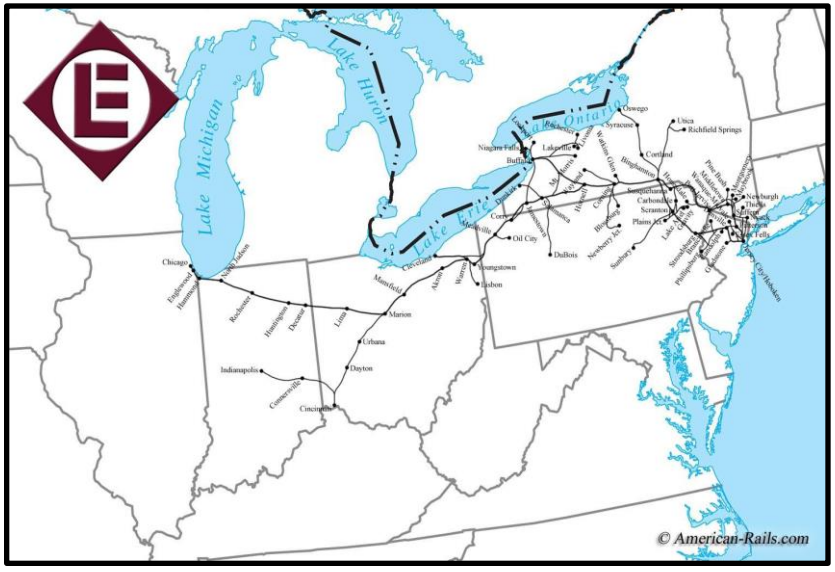
When I was about nine years old, my sister Tina and I took an all-day train trip from Brick Church Station in East Orange, New Jersey to Buffalo, New York, on the Lackawanna Railroad. The name Brick Church originated from the Second Presbyterian Church. In 1922 the tracks were elevated above street level. It was the major stop for Lackawanna Railroad trains to Buffalo. As shown above, the train went through the coal country of northeastern Pennsylvania, then west below the Finger Lake region of western New York.

Chugging through Delaware Water Gap

After passing the Delaware Water Gap, we made brief stops at Stroudsburg and Scranton, Pennsylvania and Binghamton, Corning and Hornell, New York.

We stayed with Mom's relatives on the Higgins side. Mom and Pop put us on the train. The Higgins' picked us up in Buffalo. Since we typically traveled with Mom and Pop, I felt like a grown up being able to travel without adult supervision. *What would it be like to make the trip by myself?*

Erie Lackawanna train



Erie Lackawanna Route Map

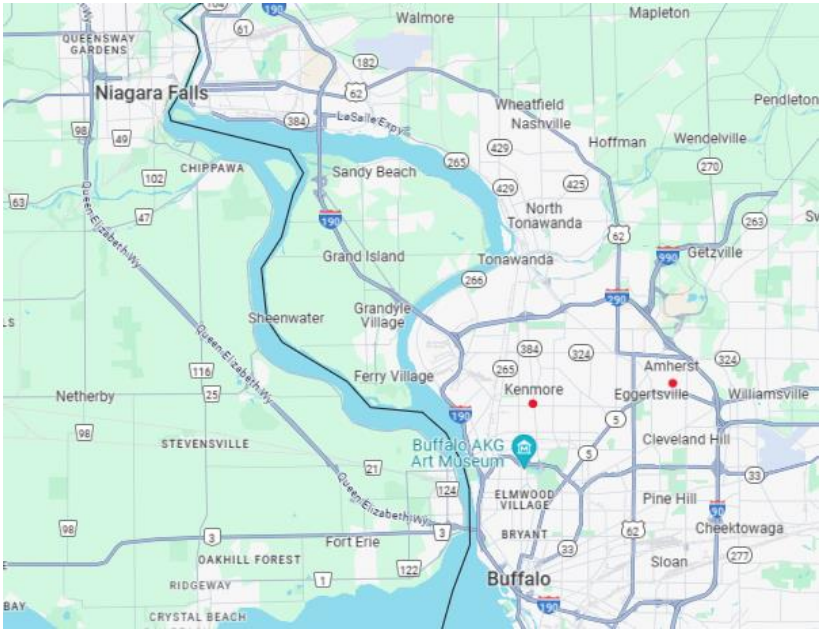
In 1960, the Lackawanna merged with the Erie Railroad to form the Erie Lackawanna Railroad. The expanded route map is shown above. I was so busy driving my 1951 Ford Station Wagon, I was no longer attracted to railroad travel.

The Buffalo Higgins'

Aunt Jean Higgins

Patrick, Arthur, Jean, Lois, Ruth, Carol, Peggy, and Eileen Higgins

The head of the Higgins household was Mom's Aunt Jean Higgins. While researching our family history, I discovered her real name was Ida, but everyone called her Jean.. Her husband Frank died suddenly from a perforated ulcer in 1945. He was only 58 years old, leaving Jean with two boys and six girls ranging in age from 12 to 25. Their home, built in 1942, was at 76 Burroughs Drive in the Amherst suburb of Buffalo. This became the Higgins home for nearly 80 years. The family probably wanted to settle down after the many moves made by Frank Higgins, when he was alive and working for Nabisco. Before moving to Buffalo, the family lived in Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Mineola, New York. It was said each time they moved, they had a new addition to the family. Jean had a way of caring for children and she loved to cook. Family members got along so well, only Patrick, Jean, Lois and Carol left home. When Tina and I visited, we were always welcomed into the family.



Buffalo Area Map

Area map with Niagara Falls at upper left, Buffalo at lower right and suburbs of Amherst and Kenmore marked in red.

76 Burroughs Drive, Buffalo, New York

Niagara Falls
Canadian side on bottom

During our visits, we usually went to Niagara Falls. We often picnicked at the park on the Canadian side. I remember being introduced to Hoffman Orange Soda there.

Aunt Jean joined us for the return trip to New Jersey. We traveled by Greyhound Bus with brief stops along the way. Jean preferred the bus. She said the train went so slow you sometimes wanted to get off and push. The bus did not have a toilet. Each stop was a welcome sight.

Jean contributed enormously as a caregiver to our family during ensuing years. Without hesitation she visited us when assistance was needed. We always looked forward to her arrival.

A few years later, Tina and I stayed with Jean's daughter, Lois, and her husband Joe Niland, who she married in 1950. It was likely July, since I remember listening to the All-Star baseball game on the radio. Joe Niland was the head basketball coach at Canisius College. He coached at Canisius from 1948-1953 with a win-loss record of 72-53. Under his tutelage, the "Golden Griffins" won the Western New York Conference title in 1950 and 1952. Joe's contributions led to Canisius becoming a basketball powerhouse, reaching the "Sweet Sixteen" in the 1955, 1956 and 1957 NCAA tournaments. During my first year at Seton Hall, we played Canisius in Buffalo. They beat us 85-67. It was the only game Canisius won during the 1957-58 season. Joe died in 2007, He was 89 years old.

Joe Niland

Lois Higgins Niland (1927-2018)

The Nilands lived at 4 Redmond Avenue in the suburb of Kenmore and there was plenty of space to play. During our playtime, Tina may have discovered her first love, Dennis Mooney, although she never admitted to it. I remember climbing a small fruit tree in a nearby field to see how high I could go. As I got higher, the tree lost its ability to bear my weight and started swinging side to side. The next thing I knew, I was on my back on the ground with the tree trunk under my back. That was it for that day. I returned to the Nilands and laid down on my stomach while Lois applied an analgesic cream to my back. I did recover after a few days of pain in my back.

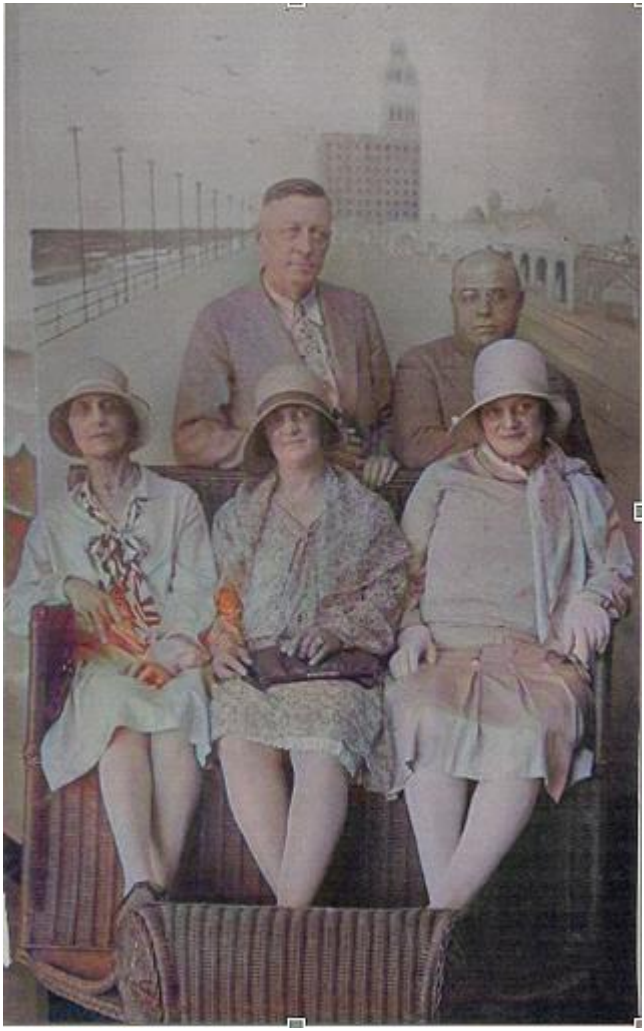
One of the benefits of the trip was an improvement to my table manners. The Nilands noted I had been holding my knife and fork with my entire hand. Although awkward at first, I soon learned to hold them properly.

I also learned some card games including Concentration. We placed a deck of cards face down on the floor. Each player turned over two cards to see if they could come up with a match. The player with the most matches was the winner. I seemed to have a photographic memory as I won nearly every game.

Our visits to the Buffalo area bring back fond memories of special times away from home. The Higgins' took good care of Tina and me during our visits creating a bond that would last a lifetime.

Trips to the Jersey Shore

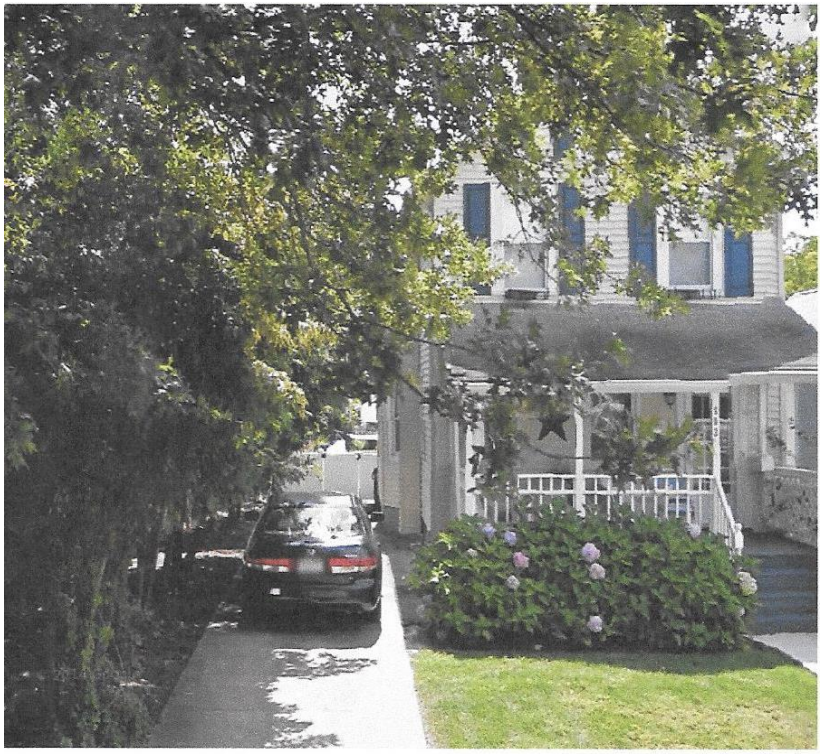
Atlantic City Beach 1915



Atlantic City Boardwalk in 1920s
Seated left to right: Nell Parsons (Grandma's older sister), Edna Consistre (Grandma's younger sister, and Grandma
Standing left to right: Grandpa and Michael Consistre (Edna's husband)

The most popular trip was to the Jersey Shore in the summertime to places such as Spring Lake, Manasquan, and Point Pleasant. Pop frequently talked about the summers he spent at Bradley Beach. It

was evident in many of the early Seymour family photos they loved to vacation at the shore.



503 Washington Avenue, Spring Lake, New Jersey

Grandpa and Grandma Seymour owned a summer home at 503 Washington Avenue in Spring Lake. This home holds some of my most pleasant memories.

To reach the shore, we drove south on Routes 1 and 9 across the Raritan River Bridge to Route 35 to Spring Lake. It was about a two-hour drive. With the opening of the Garden State Parkway, the time was reduced to just over an hour.

Spring Lake Boardwalk

I remember sitting out on the front porch and asking, "How far is the ocean?"

Seven blocks!

"When can we go in the water?"

When your food settles in your stomach! Otherwise you'll get cramps!

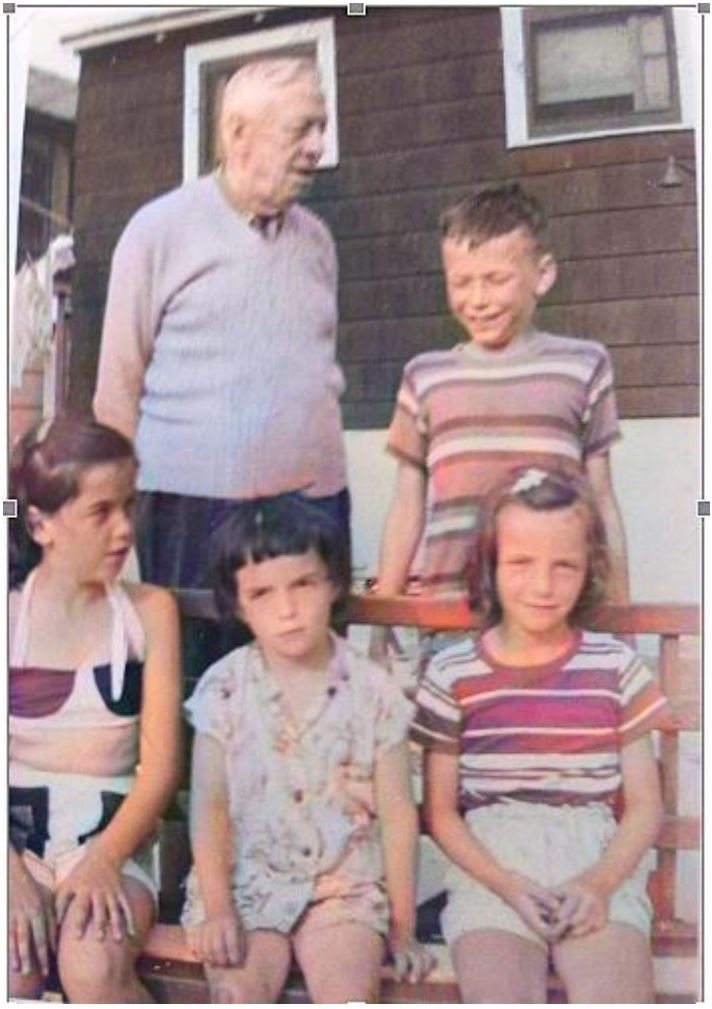
The home-cooked fried chicken and fresh Jersey vegetables were out of this world. The corn on the cob was my favorite.

In the early years, I slept inside the house. On the shelf inside the bathroom was Grandpa's shaving brush. I wondered if he ever used it? Grandma said she watched me sleep walk through the kitchen one night, then go out the screen door to the backyard. What could I have been looking for? I never believed the story

Spring Lake Train Station

Grandpa commuted to his law office in Orange by train. In the evening, I stood in awe of the big steam locomotive of the Jersey Central Railroad pulling Grandpa's train into Spring Lake Station. The station was just a few blocks from the house.

After dinner I looked forward to feeding the swans and ducks in a local lake. Grandpa and Grandma added separate accommodations in the later years.



Manasquan Beach – 1951
First row: Tina 10, Kate 4, and Cindy 6
Second row: Grandpa Seymour and Greg 11

Time to Go Into the Water

For one week during the summer of 1951, we rented the first floor of an oceanfront house in Manasquan, New Jersey. At 8 A.M. each morning we were entertained by the firing of cannons by the Army National Guard Artillery Unit in Sea Girt, about a mile up the coast. I remember the sights and scents of the penny arcades that had been closed over the winter. Pop spent most of his time fishing on the jetty at the Manasquan Inlet.

Grandpa passed away the following February. Grandma later sold the Spring Lake house. This brought a close to many pleasant memories of early trips to the shore.

Memoir of My Pets
1948-Present

New Zealand Rabbits

In 1948, I received an “Easter present” of two white New Zealand rabbits. To accommodate them, Pop and I built a two-story cage of wood and chicken wire against the garage in the back yard. We fed them leafy greens and carrots discarded by the produce department of the nearby Acme supermarket. This was supplemented by vitamin pellets from the local pet store. The pellets were often mistaken for rabbit poop.

To keep them from multiplying, we put the female upstairs and the male downstairs. It was too late! Rabbits have a gestation period of 30 days and typically have three to four litters annually. They multiplied so rapidly we couldn’t keep up. In less than a year, the number grew to 18 and we placed the newborns in our basement. We had to put them up for adoption. Pop said he returned them to the original owner on Jerome Place. Except for putting up with several cats, I didn't have a real pet again until 1978.

Chasing Cats

Neighborhood Cats

As a youngster growing up at 219 Berkeley Avenue in Bloomfield, New Jersey. I remember several "outdoor" cats roaming our neighborhood. I relished the idea of going "cat hunting." I looked for the places where they "cat napped," chased them away and attempted to catch them. Most of the time they got away.

Nervous Cat

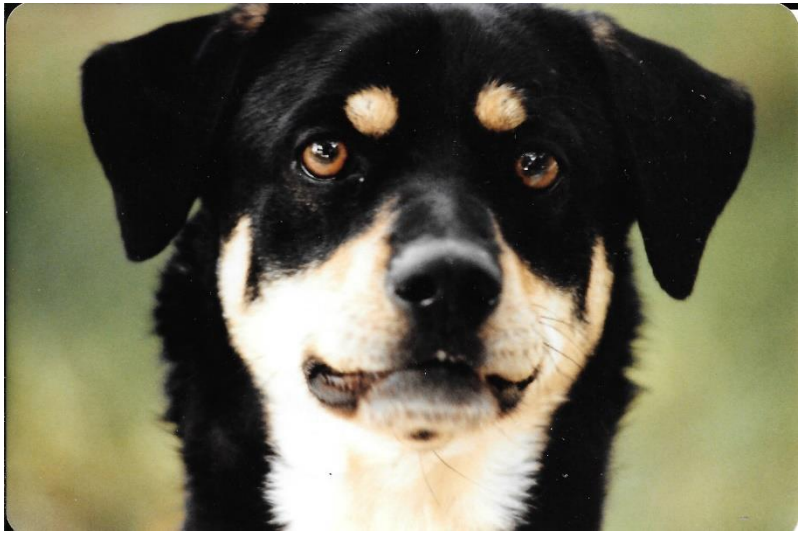
At Home Cats

During my early years in the Navy, it seemed my first wife, Angie, always kept a cat at home whether it was in Orange Park, Florida; Norfolk, Virginia; or San Jose, California. They were usually white, domestic shorthairs named Samantha. When I was home, I either ignored or took out my frustrations on them.

Himalayan Cat like Indie

In San Jose, we bought a Himalayan cat, named Indie. I became fond of Indie because he was unique. Eventually, he found the love of his life and disappeared. When we saw an Ocelot for sale in the newspaper, we had to go see it. Although it appeared tame, there was no way I was going to buy it. As time went by, I began to accept the companionship cats provide. I have now owned several cats. Some were purchased, some were strays, some were "permanently loaned" by family members or "gifted" by veterinarians. They are described throughout this memoir.

My First Dog



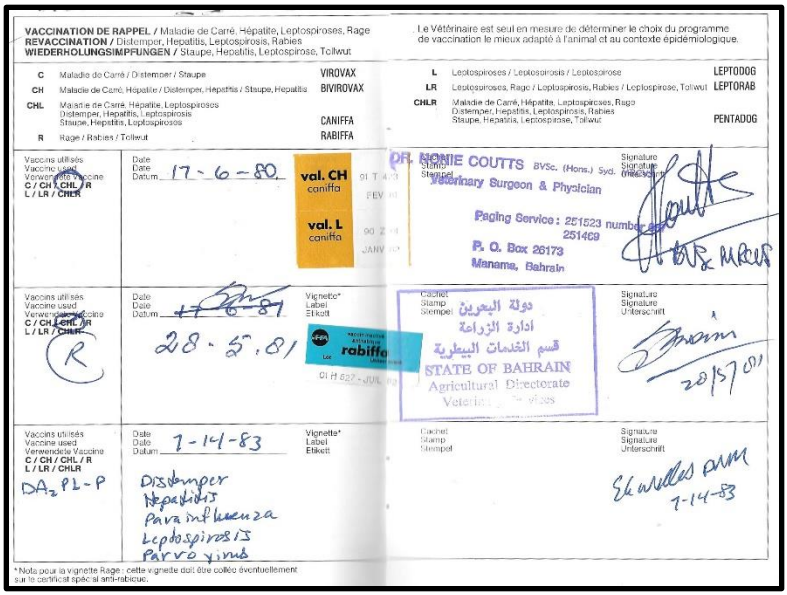
Silky Seymour 1978-1990

Taipei, Taiwan

When Hope, her son, James and I were living in Taipei, Taiwan in 1978, another American family was selling a litter of two-month old mixed breed (shepherd, husky, and chow) puppies. We decided to get one for James. Although we wanted a female, we settled for a male. The dog was named after a character we saw in a movie at the base theater, shortly after our arrival. The character was "Silky

Seymour" played by Joby Baker in the movie, "Blackbeard's Ghost." Our new puppy became known as "Silky."

A few weeks after bringing Silky home, he had become lethargic and tired, early signs of distemper. Hope took him to the local Chinese vet who used a "huge" hypodermic needle to administer large amounts of fluid. Hope thought the vet was trying to kill him. Silky survived, but lost most of his teeth. We were also concerned about poisoned meatballs being tossed into our backyard by locals with no regard for dogs.



VACCINATION DE RAPPEL / Maladie de Carré, Hépatite, Leptospiroses, Rage
REVACCINATION / Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Rabies
WIEDERHOLUNGSIMPFUNGEN / Staupe, Hepatitis, Leptospirose, Tollwut

Le Vétérinaire est seul en mesure de déterminer le choix du programme de vaccination le mieux adapté à l'animal et au contexte épidémiologique.

C	Maladie de Carré / Distemper / Staupe	VIROVAX	L	Leptospiroses / Leptospirosis / Leptospirose	LEPTODOG
CH	Maladie de Carré, Hépatite / Distemper, Hepatitis / Staupe, Hepatitis	BIVIROVAX	LR	Leptospiroses, Rage / Leptospirosis, Rabies / Leptospirose, Tollwut	LEPTORAB
CHL	Maladie de Carré, Hépatite, Leptospiroses Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis Staupe, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis	CANIFFA	CHLR	Maladie de Carré, Hépatite, Leptospiroses, Rage Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Rabies Staupe, Hepatitis, Leptospirose, Tollwut	PENTADOG
R	Rage / Rabies / Tollwut	RABIFFA			

Vaccins utilisés / Vaccine used / Verwendete Vaccine: C / CH / CHL / R / L / LR / CHLR

Date / Date / Datum: 17-6-80

val. CH caniffa

DR. NONIE COUTTS BVSc. (Hons.) Syd. Veterinary Surgeon & Physician
Paging Service: 251523 number 251469
P. O. Box 26173
Manama, Bahrain

Signature / Signature / Unterschrift

Vaccins utilisés / Vaccine used / Verwendete Vaccine: C / CH / CHL / R / L / LR / CHLR — R

Date / Date / Datum: 28-5-81

Vignette* / Label / Etikett: rabiffa

Cachet / Stamp / Stempel: دولة البحرين
ادارة الزراعة
قسم الخدمات البيطرية
STATE OF BAHRAIN
Agricultural Directorate
Veterinary Services

Signature / Signature / Unterschrift: 20/5/81

Vaccins utilisés / Vaccine used / Verwendete Vaccine: C / CH / CHL / R / L / LR / CHLR — DA2PL-P

Date / Date / Datum: 7-14-83

Distemper
Hepatitis
Parainfluenza
Leptospirosis
Parvovirus

Signature / Signature / Unterschrift: 7-14-83

* Note pour la vignette Rage : cette vignette doit être collée éventuellement sur le certificat spécial anti-rabique.

Silky's Passport

Silky at Home in his Plastic Crate

Silky eventually became my dog and was with us for 12 years. He was one of the most widely traveled dogs in the world. After Taiwan, he traveled to Japan, England, Germany, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Canada and 16 states. He even had his own passport and plastic crate for traveling, 'which also served as his house.

Hope, James and Silky flew out of Taiwan about a month ahead of me. I needed to be ready to fly our command aircraft before it was transferred to the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan. Hope's flight was not without incident. During her stopover in Osaka, Japan the pets were unloaded from the aircraft for a pee and poop break. Hope stood in shock when she saw Silky, inside his crate, fall off the baggage conveyor belt. He survived the tumble.

Kinsale, Virginia

Between assignments, Silky spent most of his time at Hope's parents' country home at Shady Harbor Shores in Kinsale, Virginia. I enjoyed walking him through the woods by the water. It provided a feeling of peace, away from the rigors of military life. Silky then joined us on our flight to Bahrain…a whole new experience for all of us.

Golden Jackal

When we first arrived, we stayed in temporary lodging in a hotel near the Navy base. I walked Silky behind the hotel among local palm groves. One dark night, Silky and I were startled by an approaching "creature" that would not back off. Silky sensed my fear and ran with me untethered to the lighted front entrance of the hotel. It may have been a golden jackal shown above. I soon started carrying a walking stick and large rocks to fend off any wild animals during our evening walks.

At home, I barreled down three flights of stairs at daybreak each morning to take Silky for his walk. As we approached the ground floor, we often set off a barrage of barks behind the wall of the house across the street. The barking subsided after we passed the gate in front of the house. Sometime later, our Arab neighbor got back at us by engaging me in a conversation. Our talks lasted long enough for Silky's patience to run out when he peed on my leg. My neighbor and I both had a good laugh.

Silky's friend, a stray, well-used female Saluki mix, was always there to meet us for our walks. She always appeared to have just delivered a new litter of pups. The Saluki became Silky's regular walking companion and she was always there to protect us from the unseen "wild" animals roaming the neighborhood.

Hope would often bring Silky when she picked me up after work at the Navy base. She and Silky always stopped for popcorn at the machine in front of the movie theater. Our dog probably ate most of it. While Silky was on base, I recruited him for guard dog duty. This included a walk alongside the cyclone fence on the base perimeter. Silky must have done his job, since we never found any suspicious activity.

In the evenings, Hope, Silky and I attended weekly softball games at a nearby ball field. When the other team scored a run, Silky would cock his leg on an opposing ballplayer through the chain link fence by their dugout. He was quickly adopted as our mascot.

For Thanksgiving 1979, we invited several sailors from visiting ships to our flat for a home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner. Hope loved to entertain. The turkey and all the fixings were prepared, and the baked desserts were left to cool in our back bedroom. One of the items Hope cooked for dessert was a lemon cake. When she went to retrieve the cake, it appeared to be sliced in half. Guess who? It was Silky, neatly helping himself to his portion. His soulful, innocent look was too precious to invoke any punishment.

A few days after Thanksgiving, the hostage crisis in Iran reached a stage where the government decided all dependents should be evacuated back to the United States. Silky remained with me in Bahrain. He became my sole companion until the following August when dependents were allowed to return. I usually took Silky to work with me where he laid down in my office. When I was flying, he stayed with one of my co-workers. Our boarder, Zein El-Amine, a Lebanese boy from Dhrahan, Saudi Arabia continued

to stay with me, but was not part of Silky's life. Zein was in the 11th grade at Bahrain School.

During winter months, Bahrain experienced some light precipitation. With no drainage, there was usually no place for the water to go. It didn't take long for the sandy streets to turn into puddles filled with muck. To cope with such conditions, Hope took a novel approach and purchased a pair of red boots for Silky. One dark night, Silky and I took a walk under such conditions. When we arrived home, I noticed he was missing a boot. During our walk the following morning, I found the boot stuck in the muck. I was glad it was red.

Bahrain to New York

At the end of July 1981, I was nearing my Navy retirement date. Final processing was scheduled for 1 August at the Naval Station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Enroute to the States, Hope, James, and I planned a three-day stay in Paris, France. Because of animal quarantine regulations, Silky was routed directly to New York via Frankfurt, Germany. For this trip, Silky needed to live inside a smaller cage due to airline size and weight restrictions. As I dropped him off at the baggage loading area at the airport. I felt so sorry for him.

After we arrived at the Hotel Louvre-Concorde in the heart of Paris, we called the airline to see if Silky arrived safely in New York. The airline checked the kennel at JFK airport. He was not there. Where was he? Did he ever leave Bahrain? Did he land at Frankfurt? Was he off loaded there? "Poor doggie," cried the hotel operator.

A few hours later the airline called. "We found Silky. He's in the cargo area at the Frankfurt airport. We forgot to put him on the flight to New York. We'll get him on the next flight. Please tell the kennel he's been delayed."

Animal Reception Center (The ARK) at JFK Airport

When we arrived at the kennel at JFK Airport to pick up Silky, he was overflowing with excitement and thrilled to see us, no worse for wear. *I wondered how long he was in Frankfurt. Was he let out of his cage? Did he get anything to eat or drink?* Only Silky knew. The ARK in the photo above was built after we were there. They say it can handle all types of animals, like Noah's Ark.

Huntington, New York

In the years following Navy retirement we lived in Huntington, New York, Cranbury, New Jersey and Merritt Island, Florida. At each of our homes we made sure we had a fenced in backyard for Silky.

In Huntington, we had over two dozen tall oak trees which provided refuge for the many squirrels in our neighborhood. Silky loved to chase squirrels and it soon became his favorite play activity. I usually walked Silky after dinner each night. About halfway through the walk, we passed a house with growling noises coming from behind the backyard fence. I discovered it was a German shepherd who seemed ready to attack us. I normally walked on by and avoided any direct encounter.

While I was traveling, Hope filled in for me on the nightly walk. She was not so fortunate in escaping danger. On her walk, the gate

to the backyard fence was left open and the shepherd left the yard making a beeline toward Silky. Hope picked up Silky and started to turn away to avoid her attacker. During the scuffle, the shepherd bit Hope on the back of her hand. The owner came out and offered to drive Hope to the doctor. She went on her own and he gave her a tetanus shot and several stitches. I felt terrible since I was usually the one who walked Silky. The backyard gate at that house was always closed and, although agitated, the shepherd always stayed inside the fence. I often felt like I should have been blamed for Hope's misfortune. *Why Hope and not me?*

Dog (like Silky) at New River Beach, New Brunswick, Canada

During the summer of 1983, Silky joined us on a one-week camping trip to the Canadian Maritimes. We set up camp at New River Beach on the Bay of Fundy. Listening to the roar of the tidal bore, then watching the beach disappear was a new experience for all of us. Better run, Silky!

Cranbury, New Jersey

When our house was being built in the Shadow Oaks development of Cranbury in late 1885 and early 1886, Hope, Silky and I drove there on weekends to see how construction was going. As we entered the Shadow Oaks community there was a house with a dog who was always there to greet us. The dog seemed to know

Silky was in the car. He barked and Silky barked back. Although Silky stayed in the car, they became true friends.

Silky enjoyed the expanse of our large lot, running to our new gazebo and leaving his footprints when it snowed. He joined us on our weekend trips to the Amish country of southeastern Pennsylvania barking at the horse-drawn buggies as they trotted by our motel in Intercourse.

Florida

When we moved to the Melbourne, Florida area in 1987, Hope and I took Silky with us on a drive through various neighborhoods to look at houses. We gave Silky the opportunity to use his senses to see what he liked the best. It was no surprise, he preferred the neighborhoods with the most squirrels and trees. We selected a house on the water. After learning waterfront living was not all it was cracked up to be, we should have paid more attention to Silky.

A few years later when we were looking for a house in the St. Petersburg area, we took Silky with us again. On this trip, he was content to stay in his cage. I don't think he was interested in moving and we never sold our Merritt Island house.

At home on Merritt Island, Florida, Silky loved to chase the low flying pelicans, herons and egrets to prevent them from making "bombing runs" on our pool screen. He did a better job at keeping the birds away than the artificial owls, we attached to our dock posts. On one of Silky's chases, he fell off our six-foot seawall, unharmed. We then decided to install a plastic garden fence as a temporary measure to help protect Silky.

In June 1990, Hope had taken Silky to the vet at South Patrick Animal Hospital because there were smears of blood in his cage. She called me at work in St, Petersburg to tell me the prognosis was not good. Cancer had spread throughout his mouth and Dr. Fuller recommended he be euthanized. "**What!** He was normal when I left for work on Sunday night and this was only the following Friday," I said.

Hope decided not to do anything until I got home. When I arrived, I couldn't believe it. He looked normal, chomping away on small pieces of steak. *I guess that's the way animals act, even under the worst of times, not wanting to disappoint their owner*. *Perhaps the cancer was caused by the loss of most of his teeth when he was still a puppy.* Silky was a special dog…like a real-person. He was part of our everyday lives in the many places we lived throughout the world.

The following morning, Hope made the decision to have Silky euthanized. It was a Saturday and the vet was busy. We left Silky and said our last goodbyes and waited outside. About a half hour later we went back into the office. Silky was still there…alive. We bowed our heads and left. When we got home, I washed out Silky's crate and gathered his toys. That evening Hope and I treated ourselves to dinner at Bernard's Surf Restaurant in Cocoa Beach, knowing things would never be the same again.

IN MEMORIUM

They will not go quietly, the pets who have shared our lives in subtle ways they let us know their spirit still survives. Old habits still can make us think we hear them at the door. Or step back when we drop a tastey morsel on the floor. Our feet still go around the place the food dish used to be. And, sometimes, coming home at night, we miss them terrible. And although time may bring new friends and a new food dish to fill. That one place in our heart belongs to them... and always will

Author unknown

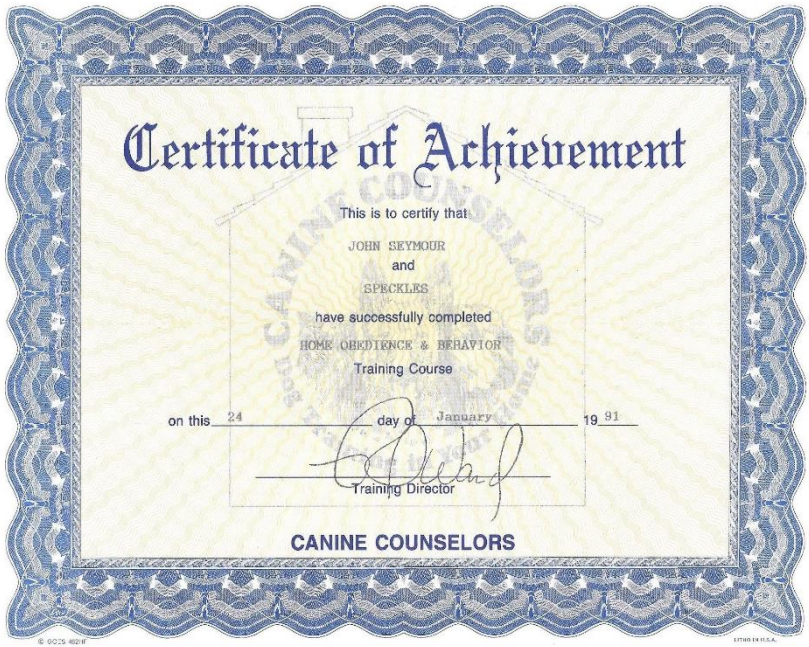
Visiting the Animal Shelter

Speckles Seymour 1990-2006

A few months later, Hope and I visited the Brevard County Humane Society's Animal Shelter on Cox Road in Cocoa, Florida. We both took a liking to a litter of small black and white beagle-terrier mix puppies in an elevated dog bed. We didn't say anything, but may have read each other's minds. About a week later, Hope, along with our neighbor, Dee Harrison, selected the runt of the litter and brought her home. We named her Speckles after the black specks in her coat.

The Terror

She fooled us with her high energy level, inquisitiveness and rapid growth. After a while, she became known as "The Terror," knocking over lamps and tray tables in the family room. Sitting in Dee's lap one day, she suddenly jumped up and bit off her earring. About a week later, Hope called me to announce "Puppy shit an earring!" After a few tense days, it all ended on a happy note and Dee got her earring back. I doubt she ever wore it again.



Speckles' Certificate of Achievement

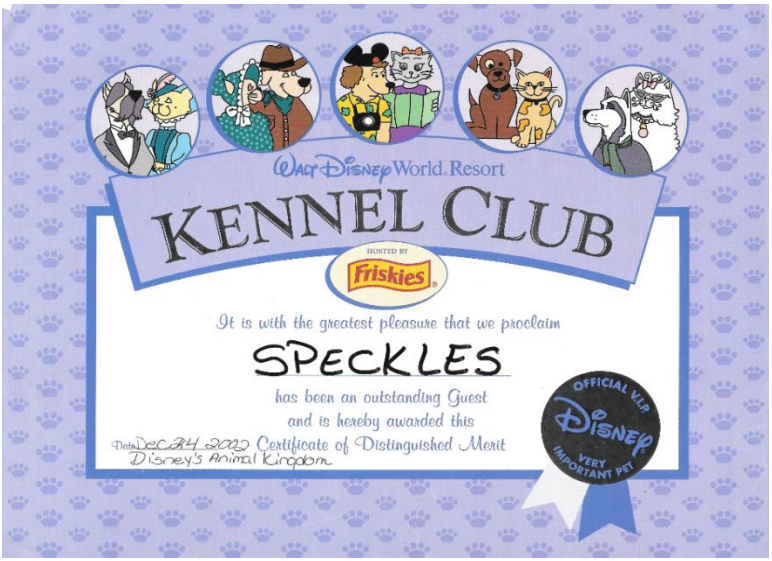
There was little doubt Speckles needed some obedience training, so we signed her up for classes with Canine Counselors every Saturday morning when I was home. To keep Speckles under control, we were told to fill empty soda cans with pennies and place them around the house. If Speckles got out of control we shook the can. The "crashing" sound always got her immediate attention.

I took her to Gleason Park in Indian Harbor Beach, where a class of several dogs got used to being around one another. The

trainer, Johnna Dowdey, had the dogs form a circle. Each dog then took turns walking between the inside and outside of the circle. As a result, Speckles became used to being around other dogs in public. She soon qualified to visit nursing homes, but we never took her to one. Speckles enjoyed the outings, particularly the walk around the park and the trip to the drive-thru car wash at the end of each session. At the car wash, she became known as "yippie," the sound of her bark from inside the car.

Florida Dog

Unlike Silky, Speckles spent most of her life near home. She usually accompanied us on short trips within Florida. She often went with us when we went to Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven. When we stayed in Key West, we took him out to dinner at a dog friendly restaurant. During the sunset celebration, Hope and I were admonished for allowing him to be within close range of the fireworks. When we went to Blue Spring State Park in Volusia County to see the manatees' winter home, we took Speckles with us. We placed her in an outdoor cage at the entrance since dogs were not allowed inside the park. Speckles' barks went unabated. She just wanted to see the manatees as she did in the Banana River back home.



Speckles Certificate of Distinguished Merit

Speckles also stayed at Disney's Animal Kingdom as shown on the above certificate.

Rescued Cat

People who no longer wanted their cats dropped them off by the causeway overpass, about ten houses south of our home on

Merritt Island. Hope discovered a stray black cat in our driveway in the aftermath of Hurricane Erin in 1995. She coaxed her into our garage and named her Sissy. She died suddenly in the spring of 2000. Hope loved Sissy and grieved at her loss.

IN MEMORIUM

They will not go quietly, the pets who have shared our lives in subtle ways they let us know their spirit still survives. Old habits still can make us think we hear them at the door. Or step back when we drop a tastey morsel on the floor. Our feet still go around the place the food dish used to be. And, sometimes, coming home at night, we miss them terrible. And although time may bring new friends and a new food dish to fill. That one place in our heart belongs to them... and always will

Author unknown

The Cat from Hell

Scooter Seymour 2000-2016

Soon, Dr. Fuller, at South Patrick Animal Hospital, offered Hope another cat. It was a male, tiger we named Scooter. It didn't take long before Hope referred to Scooter as "the cat from hell," tearing up everything in his path. When he shattered an expensive table lamp in our family room, we were unable to find a replacement…so we bought two new lamps to keep a matched pair.

Speckles and Scooter at Play

Above is a photo of Speckles “the terror” and Scooter “the cat from hell” tearing up the family room.

Speckles Keeping Watch in the Den

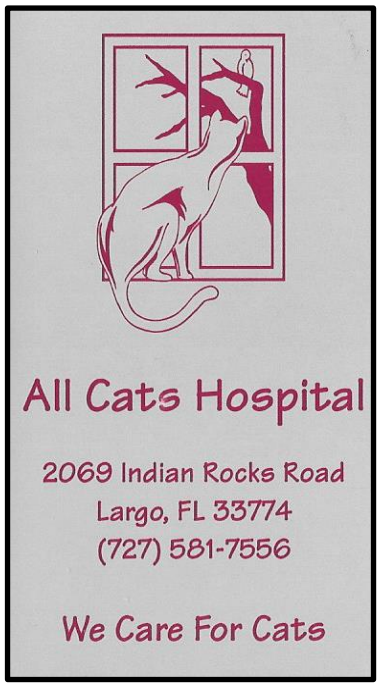
During the first ten years of Speckles life, I was home during weekends at our Merritt Island house where I spent most of my time in the den. Speckles was my constant companion. In the photo

above she is standing on our single bed sofa watching the neighborhood. After Hope's death, Speckles became part of my daily routine in St. Petersburg as well as Merritt Island.

Sole Caretaker

When Hope died on September 11th, 2001, I became the sole caretaker of Speckles and Scooter. After returning from Hope's funeral service in Virginia, I picked up Speckles and Scooter at the kennel at South Patrick Animal Hospital and headed back to work in St. Petersburg. Scooter let out a big "meow" as we drove past Tropical Trail, signaling we had passed our exit. He knew something had changed. I stopped at the halfway point where there was a rest area to walk Speckles. Soon she had it memorized, and it became a mandatory stop. Over time, they both settled down on the rear seat, becoming accustomed to being my regular passengers. Scooter in his crate and Speckles often upright on the center console to check our location.

I was spending more time in St. Petersburg, where Speckles and Scooter stayed with me in my apartment during the week. Speckles settled into a routine of morning, noontime and evening walks. Speckles slept with me on my queen-sized bed, while Scooter wandered from place to place. Returning from Merritt Island on weekends, I often stopped at Cypress Gardens to reminisce about the good times Hope and I spent there. I would put Speckles in the outdoor kennel and leave Scooter in his crate.



In August 2002, Scooter became sluggish and listless. I took him to The All-Cats Hospital in Largo, Florida where he was diagnosed with a rare disease, haemobartonella. This was an anemia caused by a microscopic blood bacterial parasite in his system. He was admitted for three days of blood transfusions. When I picked him up he was fine. Scooter lived another 14 years…a long and happy life.

A Blended Family

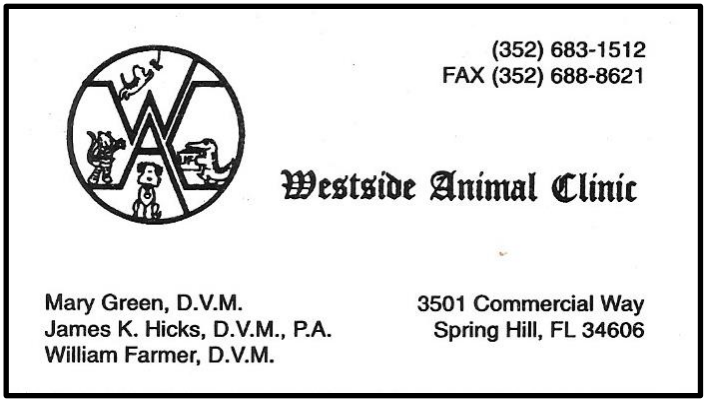
When Gail and I married in late 2002, we became a blended family of humans and their pets. Lucy, the Saint Bernard and Winny, the German Shepherd, joined Speckles, the beagle-terrier and Scooter, the tabby at our home at 7940 South Tropical Trail on Merritt Island, Florida. It seemed Gail always had dogs and they were usually large ones. She purchased Lucy and Winny when she lived in Toms River, New Jersey in 1994. To Gail, Lucy was like a celebrity since she resembled the dog, Beethoven, in the 1992

movie. She weighed about 120 pounds. Winny was very protective. She weighed about 95 pounds.

Lucy 1994-2003

Winny 1995-2008

We purchased two large crates from PetSmart and assembled them in the family room. Pictured above is Lucy on a leash and Winny in her new crate.



After moving to Brooksville, Florida in 1998, Gail took Lucy and Winny to the Westside Animal Clinic in Spring Hill for her pet care. The owner, Dr. James Hicks, became her favorite vet.

In June 2003, Gail and I moved to a smaller home near the ocean at 107 Martesia Way in Indian Harbour Beach. We built a wooden enclosure on the side of the garage to accommodate the dogs. Lucy had trouble standing and was euthanized by Dr. Hicks later in the year. Gail drove Lucy all the way to see Dr. Hicks, so he could make the final call.

Disaster Strikes

Hurricane Frances and Jeanne hit us within three weeks of each other during the late summer of 2004. Since we were living on a barrier island, we were required to evacuate inland. Like many others, Gail and I waited until the last minute to act before Frances' arrival. No lodging was available within a hundred miles and the kennels were not taking borders.

Sassy 2004-2009

Gail's son, Brian, lived nearby, so he and his cat, Sassy, rode with us. He had found Sassy near his apartment earlier in the year. We loaded our two PT Cruisers along with Winny, Speckles, Sassy

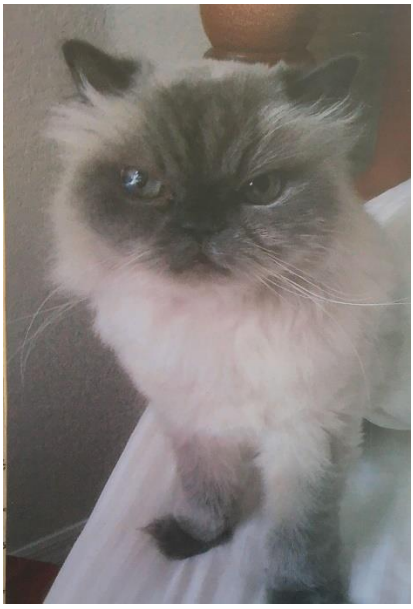
and Scooter and headed toward Leesburg, Florida. *There has to be something there.* There wasn't. As nighttime approached, we joined the bumper-to-bumper traffic heading north on I-75. We stopped for some fast food and purchased another crate to separate the cats. Where gas was available, the lines were long. By daybreak we found accommodations at the Super 8 Hotel near the Atlanta airport. We were there for three days. The remnants of Francis passed over us as we were leaving. On the way home, we spent a night at the Super 8 Hotel at St. Augustine Beach since the causeway to our home was still closed…but we all persevered.

We were better prepared for Jeanne when we found accommodations in the Best Western Hotel near Brooksville, Florida. We were there for two nights. Jeanne passed on top of us as a tropical storm while we were there. After these two storms, it seemed there was no safe place.

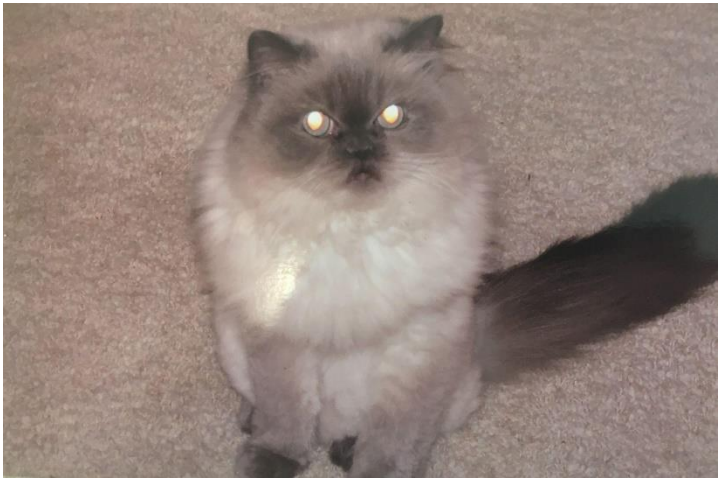
When we left Brooksville, I wasn't sure I wanted to go home. It had already been battered once and our roof was previously covered with blue tarping. When we got there it was like a war zone. Although we lost power for a few days, the inside of our home was still livable. Without doubt, this was a factor in our decision to move to The Villages where residents sheltered in-place.

Gail decided to stay with her daughter and I remained at home to work with the insurance companies, the federal government and an assortment of contractors. Brian took Sassy back to his apartment. For the next few weeks, I became the sole caregiver of Winny, Speckles and Scooter.

More Cats?



Frenchie 1994-2010



Winter 1994-2011

Before moving to Florida in 2005, Gail's daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Shawn, wanted us to care for their two Himalayan cats, Frenchie and Winter. I anticipated they would want them back after they moved into their new home…I should have known better.

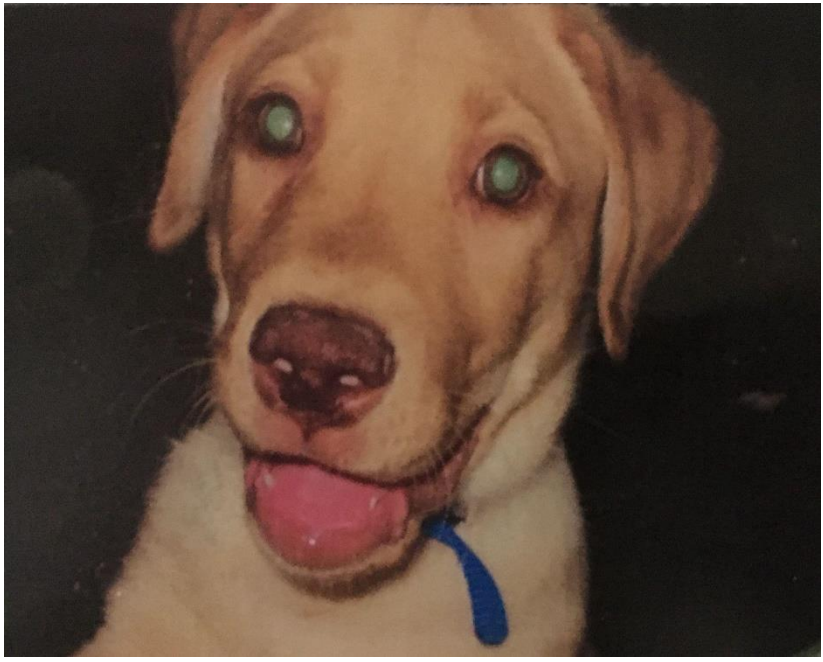
After getting settled, Jennifer knew she could talk Gail into keeping them. She did!

Lucy Ann 2000-2015

In March 2005, we boarded Speckles, Winny, and Scooter at South Patrick Animal Hospital. A meowing black and white cat caught our attention. The cat's owner had recently died of cancer and left her with the vet to find her a good home. Gail fell in love with her and we agreed she would be ours when we returned. Her name was Lucy Ann. I liked her, too, relating to her sorrow after losing her owner.

When we moved to The Villages at the end of 2005, we had two dogs; Speckles and Winny, and four cats; Scooter, Winter, Frenchie, and Lucy Ann residing at our new home. At times, I was ready to report myself to the Community Standards Department of the district government. The rules were no more than two pets per household and we had six.

Buddy



Buddy 2006-2020

After moving to The Villages in early 2006, Gail purchased a yellow Labrador Retriever puppy for $500 during a visit to Melbourne, Florida. She saw a sign on the road, stopped by and bought the pup from a private owner. The pup was about three months old and the most settled one in the litter…so she thought. We named him Buddy. Since he was a purebred, we registered him with the American Kennel Club. Teaming up with Gail's German shepherd, Winny, they were a handful each morning. Speckles was now 16 and wisely remained in her cage. We now had three dogs and four cats.

A New Vet

When we introduced Speckles to her new vet, Dr. Rick Munsell, Gail and I asked about the "right time" to let Speckles go. As a Naval Reservist, Rick commanded a P-3 squadron, so we had shared interests about flying in the Navy. I trusted his advice. Rick told us about the HHHHHMM scale described below.

Quality of Life Scale Helps Make Final Call

Frequently we are asked how to determine if it is "time" for our beloved pets. This is often very difficult for us to determine because we don't see your pet as much as you do and sometimes they act differently here than at home.

This is a guide to so basic questions you need to ask yourself to help you make that dreaded decision. Be honest, don't fudge the answer, your loving pet has trusted you all these years and expects nothing less.

Think of the HHHHHMM Scale…..

Hurt - Does my pet hurt?
Hunger - Is my pet eating normally or am I having to hand or force feed?
Hydration - Is my pet drinking normally, or does it require fluids to stay hydrated?
Hygiene - Can my pet still keep itself clean or do I have to help?
Happiness - Does my pet still experience any joy or mental stimulation?
Mobility - Can my pet still move around on its own, or do I have to help?
More Good Days than Bad - Does my pet have more good days, or bad days?

If you are answering with more negatives than positives, perhaps the time has come and this will make your decision easier.

When we left, we could honestly say there were no negatives except Speckles may have had a minor stroke when we noticed her eyes became temporarily misaligned.

Goodbye Speckles

Speckles' Last Photo

On 26 April, Speckles had a stroke. When I took her to the vet, she was breathing heavily and her gums were no longer pink. The time had come. I held her as she was euthanized. "I will see you again on the other side," I said. Her eyes remained open as if to acknowledge my words. It was a sad day for me, but the sadness was brief since our yellow lab, Buddy, was becoming more and more of a handful.

IN MEMORIUM

They will not go quietly, the pets who have shared our lives in subtle ways they let us know their spirit still survives. Old habits still can make us think we hear them at the door. Or step back when we drop a tastey morsel on the floor. Our feet still go around the place the food dish used to be. And, sometimes, coming home at night, we miss them terrible. And although time may bring new friends and a new food dish to fill. That one place in our heart belongs to them... and always will

Author unknown

The Road to Adulthood

Buddy on the Treadmill

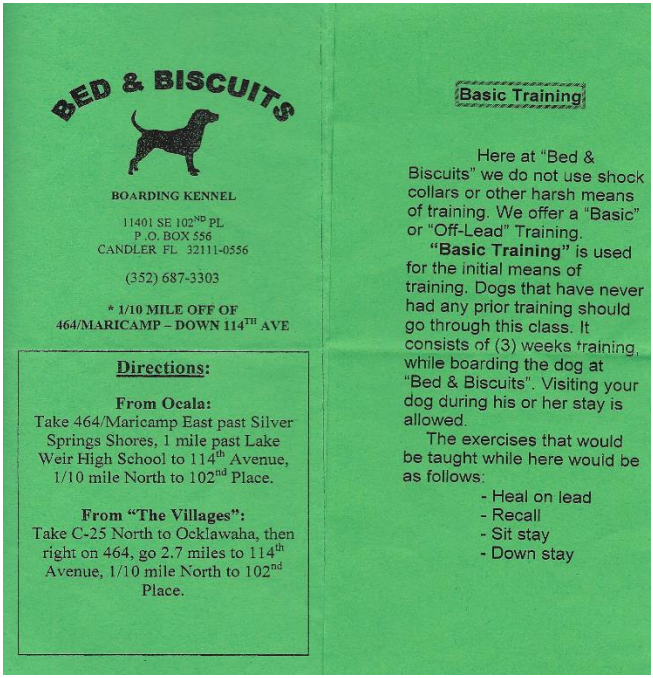
On the day Buddy was neutered, he was required to remain at The Village Veterinarian's overnight. During the evening, one of the techs was scheduled to take him for a walk. However, Gail insisted Rick return to work and walk him. He did! A few weeks later, Rick inserted a microchip in Buddy at the Park Heights Animal Care Center.

Buddy was such an active pup, he frequently pulled out of his collar and played "catch me if you can." Now, we had to get him trained. We started taking him to weekly obedience classes at a rural location east of Ocala. We went every Saturday for about two months and soon discovered I wasn't effective in getting him to obey my commands. I tried to get some pointers from the Dog Whisperer TV show, but it didn't help. *Perhaps it would be best if Buddy spent some time with a professional trainer.*

The instructor at the obedience class referred us to Terry Etts at the Bed & Biscuits Boarding Kennel in the Ocala suburb of Candler. Terry specialized in training Labrador Retrievers. He agreed to board Buddy while we were away during the Christmas holidays. It was an ideal country setting with an open field where he could romp with other labs.

Sign to Bed & Biscuits

When Gail and I dropped off Buddy for training, I was disturbed when I saw Buddy's new environment. No more soft, cushy mattresses and playthings. Welcome to boot camp…basic training for dogs. Below is a description of Buddy's basic training course.



BED & BISCUITS

BOARDING KENNEL

11401 SE 102ND PL
P.O. BOX 556
CANDLER FL 32111-0556

(352) 687-3303

* 1/10 MILE OFF OF
464/MARICAMP – DOWN 114TH AVE

Directions:

From Ocala:
Take 464/Maricamp East past Silver Springs Shores, 1 mile past Lake Weir High School to 114th Avenue, 1/10 mile North to 102nd Place.

From "The Villages":
Take C-25 North to Ocklawaha, then right on 464, go 2.7 miles to 114th Avenue, 1/10 mile North to 102nd Place.

Basic Training

Here at "Bed & Biscuits" we do not use shock collars or other harsh means of training. We offer a "Basic" or "Off-Lead" Training.

"Basic Training" is used for the initial means of training. Dogs that have never had any prior training should go through this class. It consists of (3) weeks training, while boarding the dog at "Bed & Biscuits". Visiting your dog during his or her stay is allowed.

The exercises that would be taught while here would be as follows:

- Heal on lead
- Recall
- Sit stay
- Down stay

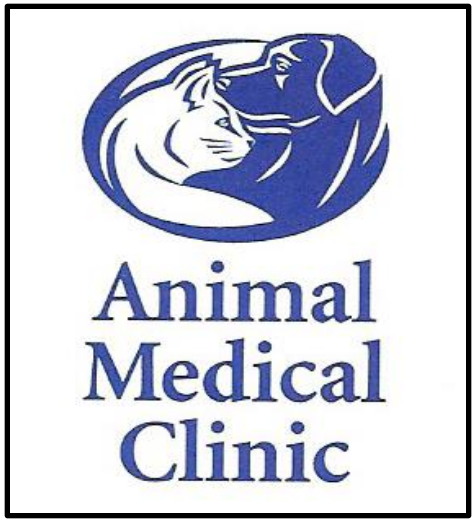
Bed & Biscuits Basic Training

We visited Buddy once during his training and he responded well to all my commands under Terry's watchful eye. The commands were executed with the help of a large prong choke collar. Buddy was meeting his training objectives.

When we arrived home, we began to practice the sit stay and recalls. When I noticed blood on Buddy's neck, it struck a sympathetic chord in my heart. I gave in and opted to buy him a body harness. *Who was kidding who?* Buddy knew his owner needed the training.

After their morning walks, Buddy and Winny continued to romp and play inside the family room. They often got out of control, jumping on furniture and breaking accessories. The tile flooring through most of the house helped with the liquid cleanups. Winny left her mark by gouging the sliding door to the laundry room. Eventually, they both returned to rest on their orthopedic cushions or inside their crates.

Winny redeemed herself by protecting me when the Groundhog Day tornado struck in 2007. She must have heard the tornado coming, since she would not let me go outside until it passed.

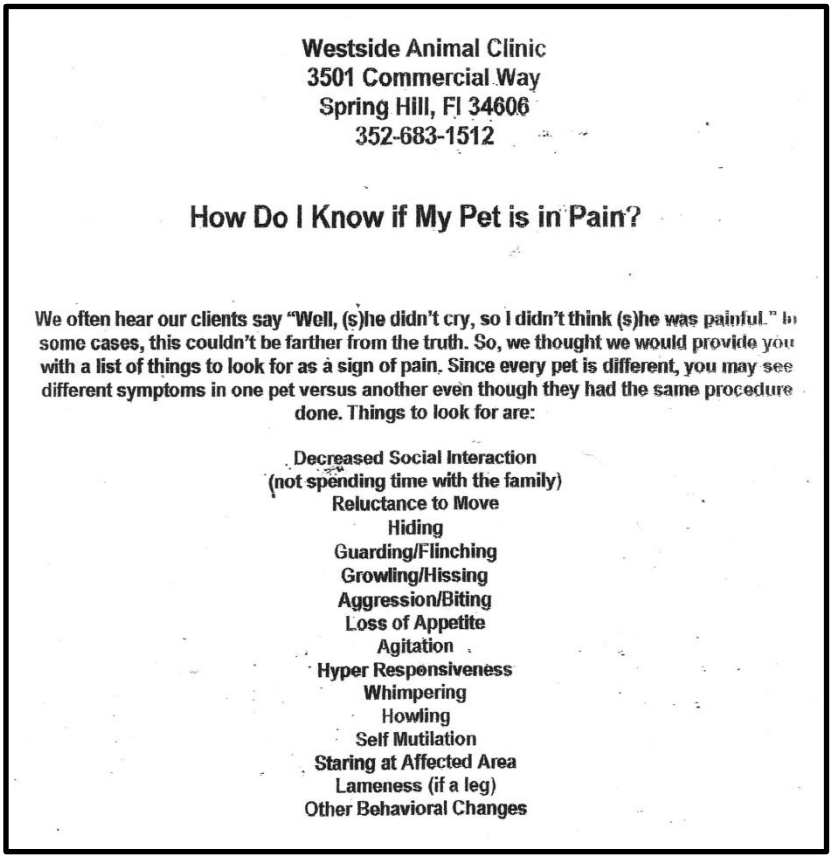


Gail's son, Brian, worked at the Animal Medical Clinic near his home in Melbourne, Florida, where he was able to board and receive care at a reduced rate. In 2007, Brian moved back to New Jersey and offloaded his cat, Sassy, on us.

Sassy's Not Moving!

We kept her for about two years until one night Gail screamed, "Sassy's laying on the bed, but she's not moving!" After checking further, we found she was dead. We estimated she was about five years old. It seemed there was little we could do except put the body in a cat carrier and take it to the Veterinary Emergency Clinic in Leesburg. We went back the next morning to retrieve the carrier. We never knew how she died.

Winny Visits Vet



Westside Animal Clinic
3501 Commercial Way
Spring Hill, Fl 34606
352-683-1512

How Do I Know if My Pet is in Pain?

We often hear our clients say "Well, (s)he didn't cry, so I didn't think (s)he was painful." In some cases, this couldn't be farther from the truth. So, we thought we would provide you with a list of things to look for as a sign of pain. Since every pet is different, you may see different symptoms in one pet versus another even though they had the same procedure done. Things to look for are:

Decreased Social Interaction
(not spending time with the family)
Reluctance to Move
Hiding
Guarding/Flinching
Growling/Hissing
Aggression/Biting
Loss of Appetite
Agitation
Hyper Responsiveness
Whimpering
Howling
Self Mutilation
Staring at Affected Area
Lameness (if a leg)
Other Behavioral Changes

We took Winny to Westside Animal Clinic in 2007 to have Dr. Hicks check out a lump in her abdomen. She had a tumor that was cancerous and needed to be removed. He gave us the leaflet above to judge her pain. If she was in pain, she didn't show it. After it was removed, the cancer continued to spread and sometime later, I found her suffering from convulsions. I took her to the Village Vet, where she was euthanized in 2008.

Dr Hicks - Westside Animal Clinic

A Great Dane or a Mastiff

Soon afterward, Gail's daughter-in-law, Constance, found a large, young, fawn-colored female dog near her home in Spring Hill, Florida. There was a laceration on the back of her neck. *Had she been abused or was she trying to crawl under some barbed wire?* We had her examined by Dr. Hicks at Westside Animal Clinic who said she was okay. Gail always had a soft spot for rescuing abandoned dogs, so we decided to keep her. We named her Suzie. She weighed about 150 pounds and was probably full grown. I wasn't sure about this. We weren't sure of her breed. *Was she a Great Dane, Mastiff or something else?* Our neighbor, Debbie, who owned a Bordeaux Mastiff, was convinced she was a Great Dane. We eventually decided she was a Mastiff mix.

We learned this dog needed to have regular walks. I was not prepared for this, so I found a dog walker in the paper. To me, the recurring price was outrageous. We hired Erika Demer who arrived each morning at 9 A.M. to take Suzie on a walk through the neighborhood. Erika soon married and became pregnant, so we had to look for another dog walker. *Or was there an alternative?*

Community Development District deed restrictions prevented us from putting up a fence in the yard for Buddy and Suzie. We thought about an in-ground electric fence, but believed this would not stop a large dog with his mind made up. Besides, it wouldn't stop others from coming in. We could have moved to a Courtyard Villa where an enclosed area was already in place, but we had too much stuff. After contacting, T&D, our pool construction company, we found a solution in our lanai area. T&D told us they could build a "planter," a term acceptable to the Architectural Review Committee.

Pool Extension for Dogs

The planter, shown above, was a six foot extension of the pool deck and screen enclosure filled with several inches of river rock. It took a long time before the dogs got used to going on the rocks. They probably would have preferred grass. We worried about Buddy jumping into the pool, but he never did.

I loved walking Buddy around the yard. He got along with everybody, often preferring to lay down and play. He quickly became friends with neighborhood dogs, Sanibel and Toby. They were both miniature schnauzers and Buddy was often too large for them to handle. *I wonder if he knew how much smaller they were.* One of our neighbors, named Jack, decided to lay on his back on the grass to get Buddy to play with him, but Buddy just kept barking until he got up. When neighbor and former memoir group member,

Nancy Heydt, drove by, Buddy was always laying down beside me in our front yard. She would say, "What kind of dog is that?" One time, Buddy left our yard and ran down the street toward the Cane Garden Golf Course. A neighbor returning from picking up a pizza, tossed a slice out of his car window in an attempt to stop Buddy. It didn't faze him. When a wannabe dog walker stopped at our front door to walk Buddy, Gail objected. It was her dog.

Buddy's Certificate of Bravery

At the end of October 2013, we took Buddy to the Westside Animal Clinic for elective surgery to remove tumors on the lower part of his back legs. He received a certificate for his bravery. In retrospect, I didn't believe the surgery was necessary.

Runaway Dog

Buddy - The Runaway

Buddy never liked being constrained. If he had an opportunity to break free…watch out. One day at the Westside Animal Clinic in Spring Hill he decided to use the artificial fire hydrant in front. This may have been a distraction to allow him to slip out of his collar and soon he was headed toward U.S. 19, the main highway. Most of the office staff from the clinic came out and started after him. Somehow we were able to coax Buddy away from the highway and back him into a wooded area behind the clinic. We finally got him.

On another occasion, Buddy was gone for hours. While standing with him alongside the road in our backyard at 9 P.M. one February

night, I discovered the leash was no longer attached to his harness. When I looked up, I discovered he had crossed the road and was heading into the Hagood Loop neighborhood and the Cane Garden Golf Course. I called Gail who headed out in the car while I tried to confine and capture Buddy on foot. When I realized I wasn't going to get him, I returned home and got in my golf cart. The residents living on the golf course offered some eerie thoughts. "The coyotes probably got him," they said. A few hours later, with no signs of Buddy or any coyotes, I returned home and went to bed. Gail called Community Watch and continued her pursuit. About 3 A.M., a neighbor about a mile away called Community Watch, reporting a dog laying in her front yard. It was Buddy. Gail drove to the neighbor's home where Buddy jumped in the car and she brought him home. I never did fall asleep. When Gail returned, the slurping sound from Buddy's water bowl was music to my ears.

Suzie on Recliner 2008-2015

Suzie and Buddy sharing Mattress

Suzie and Buddy were a destructive pair. Suzie gnarled pieces of teakwood from the edges of the coffee table and Buddy chewed on the upholstery covering the leg of the sofa in the photo above.

Buddy loved to leave “lickity-licks” on the TV screen and door to our lanai.

In 2015, Suzie became lethargic and had difficulty walking. We took her to see Dr. Hicks who diagnosed cancer. He referred us to BluePearl, an emergency veterinarian service and pet hospital in Tampa. Leg amputation was considered, but the vet offered little reassurance about her recovery. Suzie was euthanized in May.

Since moving into our Villages home, Scooter, as the only male cat, had the run of the entire house, except for the bedrooms where we kept the other cats. He seemed to prefer this arrangement. Scooter left scratch marks in the dining room table which were easily eradicated by using an almond stick. In 2016, Scooter was being treated for kidney disease. In December, I drove him to Westside Animal Clinic. Dr. Hicks' diagnosis was not good. He had end stage kidney failure and eventually needed to be euthanized. I said okay, but didn’t stay to watch.

Lilly 2008-2018

We purchased Lilly at a Mac's Pet Connection event at PetSmart in November 2017. She was about the same age as Buddy and had some Labrador Retriever in her. We thought she and Buddy would get along and they did. She had regular vet visits and was up to date on her shots, but her eyes seemed glazed. A few months after we got her, we took her to the Westside Animal Clinic and a tumor was removed from her nose by Dr. Hicks' colleague, Dr. Green. When we started seeing smears of blood on our pool deck, we knew something was still wrong. Gail took her back to Westside, she was referred to BluePearl in Tampa for evaluation. After cancer was diagnosed, Gail was referred to the University of Florida Animal Hospital in Gainesville for treatment. The vet offered some hope. However, when Gail discovered she could not accompany Lilly during treatment, she left. Lilly was euthanized in October. We had her for less than a year.

Katie 2011-

Katie was found in a park near Gail's daughter-in-law, Constance's home in 2014. She was about three years old. I thought of her as an "outside cat," since she often did not use her litter box and pooped on the bed. Despite this, the litter box was still her turf and she abruptly became enraged when she sensed her litter was being disturbed.

On one occasion Gail's daughter-in-law, Constance, was cleaning our house when she decided Katie's litter needed to be changed. When Katie observed this, she made a beeline toward the litter box, biting Constance on the hand. When Constance was treated by her doctor, it was confirmed Katie ws not current on her rabies shot. Animal services arrived, scooped up Katie in a net and quarantined her at the Sumter County Animal Shelter in Sumterville, Florida for one week. After we picked her up and brought her home, I was put in charge of Katie during Constances' visits. I don't pick her up, but she likes to "jump me" and sit on my lap in front of my laptop. She often shows up during our Zoom meetings.

Elsa 2016-

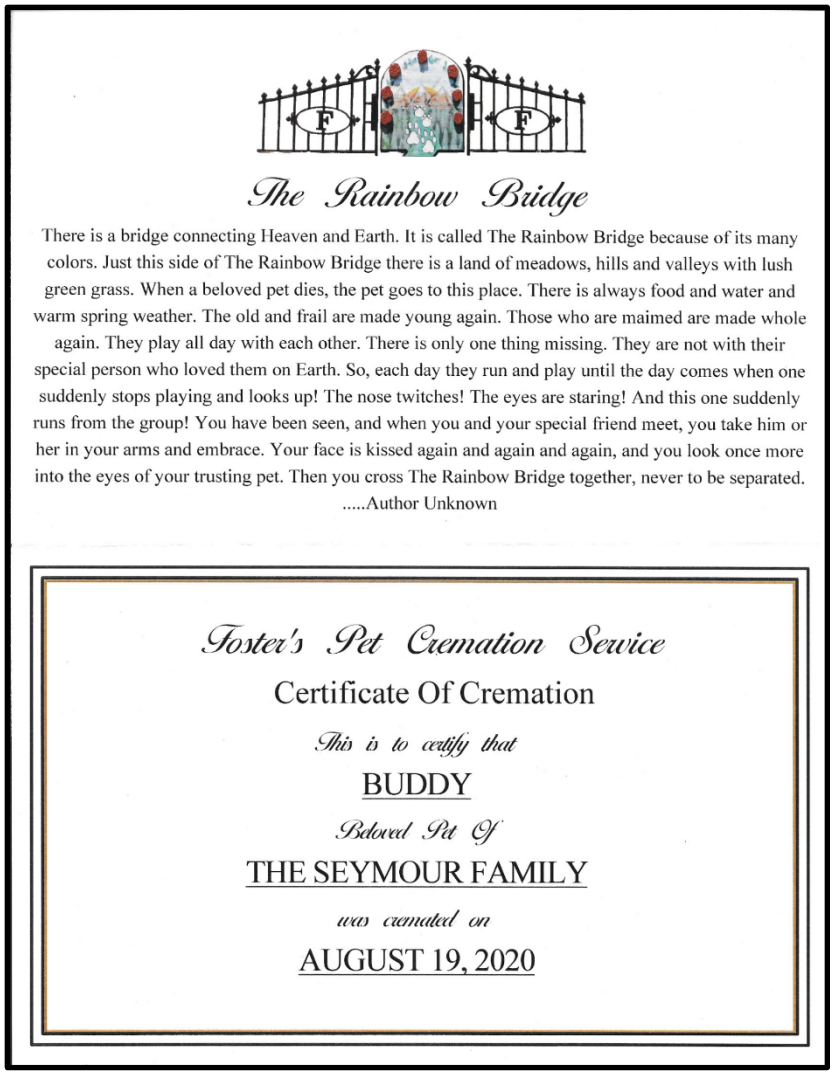
We got Elsa at a Pet Lover adoption event at PetSmart on 28 November 2015. Gail believed she was a “mini” bobcat. She was a happy cat.

In February 2020, we took Buddy to Westside Animal Clinic where he was diagnosed with idiopathic vestibular disease related to the ear. It caused him to cock his head to the side. It was easily treated with meclizine, a motion sickness pill. We decided to use the local vet at Buffalo Ridge Animal Hospital in The Villages. Over time, it became more and more difficult to hold him upright in his harness when we went for walks. I began sleeping next to him

in the recliner in our family room since he needed to go outside at all hours of night.

Although I wanted to keep Buddy going, I realized I could do no more. I was exhausted and didn't have the heart to drive him all the way to Spring Hill. Gail drove Buddy to the Westside Animal Clinic where he was euthanized on 18 August 2020. It was particularly difficult since we were in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was her last visit to Westside Animal Clinic.

Gail and I really wanted another dog, but I don't miss those early morning walks and lifting him by his harness to bring him inside. Since we are now well into our 80s, we are finding contentment in our cats.



The Rainbow Bridge

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called The Rainbow Bridge because of its many colors. Just this side of The Rainbow Bridge there is a land of meadows, hills and valleys with lush green grass. When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm spring weather. The old and frail are made young again. Those who are maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other. There is only one thing missing. They are not with their special person who loved them on Earth. So, each day they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly stops playing and looks up! The nose twitches! The eyes are staring! And this one suddenly runs from the group! You have been seen, and when you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace. Your face is kissed again and again and again, and you look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet. Then you cross The Rainbow Bridge together, never to be separated.

.....Author Unknown

Foster's Pet Cremation Sewice

Certificate Of Cremation

This is to certify that

BUDDY

Beloved Pet Of

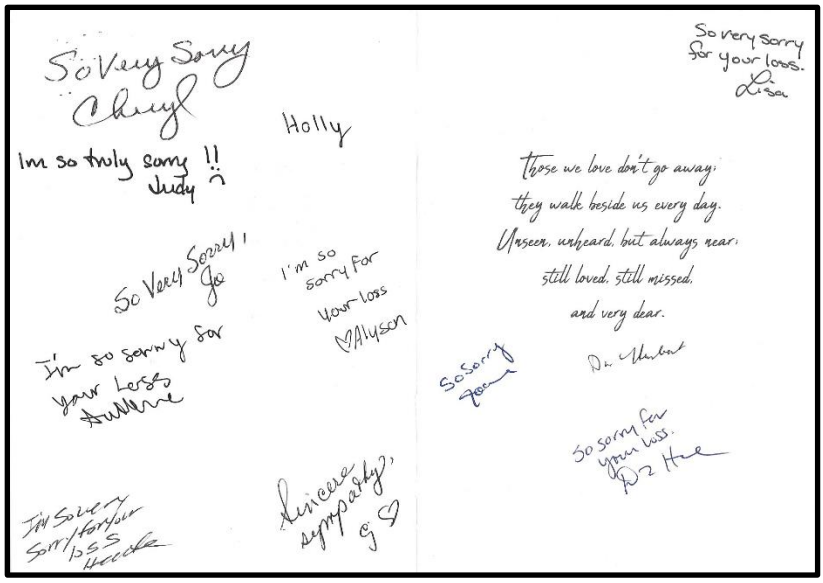
THE SEYMOUR FAMILY

was cremated on

AUGUST 19, 2020

Buddy's Certificate of Cremation

Gail had Buddy cremated and his ashes were mailed back to us a few days later. His remains now sit on top of our entertainment center in the family room overlooking the area where he slept and played. A sympathy card from the vet sits alongside the certificate.



Buddy's Sympathy Card from Westside Animal Clinic

Buddy spent most of his life close to home. He didn't go on golf cart rides or visit the dog parks. Except for checkups and boarding at the vet and when he broke loose, I usually walked him in our yard. He loved to sit outside and socialize with other dogs and humans in the neighborhood. Goodbye Buddy, see you on the other side.

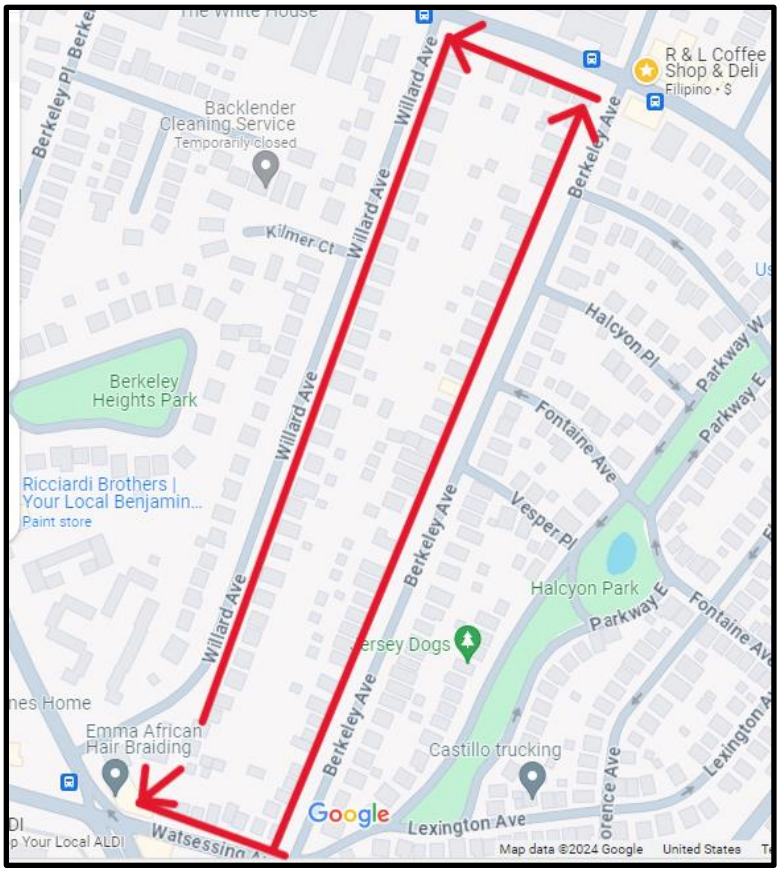
The loss of Silky, Speckles and now Buddy were major losses in my life. The bonds and attachments and unconditional love was something I had not experienced before. Thank you pooches. I've grown to love the kittys, too. I have been transformed from my early days of chasing them around the neighborhood to allowing Katie to show up at our Zoom meetings.

Memoir of Making Money
1952-1961

From eighth grade at 12 through graduation from college at 21, I always had a job. Sometimes I had two or three jobs at the same time. I almost always had spending money. This gave me a feeling of individual responsibility, not having to ask my family for financial support. This responsibility became imperative during tenth grade when Mom died and Pop was left with my four younger sisters and me.

Tina's Bicycle

My first job was as a paperboy for our local weekly newspaper, *The Independent Press*. We often referred to it as "The Indecent Mess." Each Thursday a bundle of newspapers was delivered to my home at 219 Berkeley Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey. After school, not having a bicycle of my own, I loaded the papers onto my sister Tina's bicycle that I used for newspaper deliveries. I loaded the newspapers into a basket attached to the handlebars over the front wheel and into saddle bags attached to a carrier over the rear wheel.



My *Independent Press* Paper Route

There were about 50 customers on my route. I started climbing the hill on Franklin Street where I made deliveries at an apartment house. At the top of the hill, I turned left onto Willard Avenue. After making deliveries at relatively upscale homes on Willard, I made another left on Watsessing Avenue. A short distance later, I made another left onto Berkeley Avenue toward home. I usually completed the route in less than two hours.

I made collections monthly on Saturday when I expected subscribers to be home. The amount collected was either a dollar or a dollar twenty-five depending on the number of Thursdays in the month. I looked forward to collecting at the last stop on my route

on Berkeley Avenue. That subscriber always gave a big twenty-five cent tip.

Fischer's Corner Store

Spiller's Drugstore

There were several stores at the corner of Berkeley Avenue and Franklin Street. It seemed as though all goods and services were available at these stores. There was a shoemaker, barber shop,

Fischer's corner store, delicatessen, Acme grocery store, bakery, Spiller's drugstore and a Chinese laundry.

These stores presented an opportunity for me to make more money. By building a good reputation in the neighborhood, I was hired by three of the stores within a short period. I worked at the shoemaker's, Fischer's corner store, and Spiller's drug store. On one occasion, I found time to remove ashes from the furnace at the apartment house.

Apartment House at 153 Franklin Street

My primary job was at the corner store owned by Charles Fischer. Charles and his wife, Tess, lived in the apartment up the street. I put together sections of the Sunday newspapers on top of the stools of the soda fountain. On a few evenings each week, I restocked shelves and cases near the soda fountain with cans of soup

and bottles of soda. An assortment of Campbell's Soups and Hoffman sodas were the best sellers.

Cases of these items were unloaded from trucks parked on the street, then brought to the basement through stairs covered by metal doors on the sidewalk. The basement served as the stockroom. I often glimpsed into the stockroom for the delicatessen next door. I saw a large black man, Allen, retrieving cases of beer and wine. It seemed he was working to get access to the booze. The restocking process involved carrying items up a steep, narrow stairway to the back of the store. After restocking, I swept the floors and took out the garbage.

Sunday mornings were exceptionally busy with a large number of customers stopping by to buy the Sunday papers. Charles needed help behind the tobacco and candy counter at the entrance to the store. His friend and neighbor, Fred Thiele, usually came by to assist. Fred not only provided help, but he also provided entertainment. On the wall across from Fred were shelves full of comic books, a popular item in those days.

Fred was one of the most comical people I have known. He had stories about his experiences as an ambulance driver during WW I. He talked about people avoiding work by sitting on toilets for hours. All of the latest gossip from the neighborhood was available from Fred. People stopped by to get the latest "news." *Perhaps he had some tips on the horses.*

Chief Lithographer Rating (LI) Badge

Ted LaMothe, a 40 -year-old bachelor, often stopped by Fischer's for a light meal. He was a new resident who served in the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer during World War II. A wound on the side of his face was supported by a metal plate. In the Navy, Ted served as a lithographer, which became his profession. Ted was starting his own printing business on Franklin Street. He named it Parsons-LaMothe, after his mother and father.

Ted had a pleasant personality and strong work ethic, drawn from his French Canadian roots.

While attending college, I worked for Ted at his printing business. He reinforced my strong work ethic, demanded resilience in difficult situations, and pointed me toward a Naval career. He allowed me to work the hours needed to earn a salary to pay my college tuition.

At Fischer's store, my salary was seven dollars a week. I often purchased Topps gum with baseball cards for a portion of my salary. Each pack was about ten cents. I bought two or three depending on the featured players. I was paid in cash before leaving on Sunday.

One Sunday after taking out the garbage, the seven dollars was no longer in my pocket. Was the seven dollars in the garbage? I looked everywhere up and down the street and in the garbage. No luck. I never recovered the money and made do without it until the following Sunday.

One summer, when Fischer's was closed for a week, they needed someone to sell newspapers in front of the store. I was certain that I was the automatic choice to get the job. I was not chosen and was very disappointed. One of my neighbors and classmate, Larry Bizjak, got the job. Larry was several months older and was likely selected because of this burlier appearance. Although I was disappointed, I realized I was probably not large enough to stand up to dissatisfied customers.

Trunk of 1942 Dodge Coupe

During this time, my friend and neighbor, Jim Corley, asked if I could join him in delivering the *Newark Star Ledger,* a daily and Sunday paper. Jim was about my age. I agreed. He had a large route, perhaps three times the size of my weekly one. We thought sharing it would be no problem. However, the Sunday papers were so heavy, we needed some help.

As we were below the minimum driving age of 17, we asked our parents to alternate driving us around on our route each Sunday. Our parents were far from enthused about getting up early on Sunday, but they agreed.

Pop's 1942 Dodge Coupe had an extra-large trunk, so he was usually the one who did the driving. We loaded the papers in the trunk of the car and were on our way. Although the deliveries were accomplished, our parents became more and more disgruntled. Subsequently, the entire undertaking became unmanageable and we quit after about six months.

***Independent Press* Main Office and Diner 2002**

I continued my weekly *Independent Press* paper route without complaints. To reward my performance, Circulation Manager Walt Donofrio, recommended me for the copy boy position at the main newspaper office near Bloomfield Center.

***Independent Press* Banner**

This opportunity coincided with the start of tenth grade at Bloomfield Senior High at age 14 in September 1954. Senior High was only a few blocks away from the newspaper office. I got the job! My immediate supervisor was General Manager, Bill Litvany.

The Face Is Familiar—

Enter the office of the Independent Press any weekday from about 2:30 p.m. on and (if you stay for more than a few moments) you are almost certain to hear some member of the newspaper force calling for "Greg." For it's — "Greg, will you get me a container of hot chocolate and the paper!" — or "Where's the card for this cut, Greg?"—or "Will you see what that lady at the counter wants, Greg?" But no matter what the request or question there's always an affirmative answer and a grin from I. P. office boy, J. Gregory Seymour!

Sixteen year old Greg, the son of John G. Seymour of 219 Berkeley avenue, and the late Mrs. Seymour, is the only boy in a family of five. A Bloomfield resident for most of his life, the slender lad with the blondish brown hair went to Berkeley Grammar School and Bloomfield Junior High. He is now in the 11th grade at Bloomfield High School where he "commutes" each day via a bicycle which is perennially parked in the I. P. garage! On the subject of school, Greg's future plans include college life. And according to guidance tests taken in school, the blue-eyed boy harbors a strong interest in architecture.

Greg's association with the Independent Press began at the age of 12 when he became a newsboy. Carrier Boy Greg handled Route 35 (plus Route 37 during summers) for three years. Then this past summer he was "graduated" to the position of office boy. Greg was recommended for the job by W. R. Donofrio, circulation manager at the Press, because of his outstanding record as a newsboy. In his three years of delivering papers, the slender boy never had a complaint lodged against him!

J. GREGORY SEYMOUR

Now with the official title of "Office Boy" comes a host of chores to be completed each week. The job entails filing cuts, making out bills, sending "tear sheets" to various concerns, and helping people on the "other side" of the counter. However, Greg does tell us that the office on Saturday (after he has completed his office routine) is a "swell" place to do homework in!"

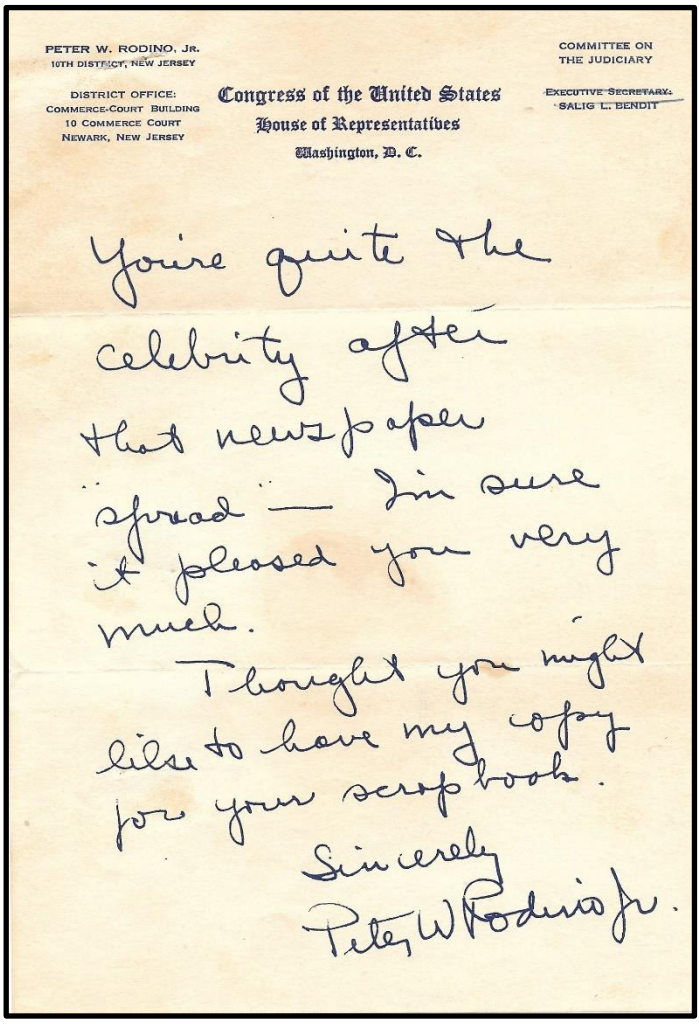
After school jobs are nothing new to the pleasant soft-spoken lad, though, for he previously worked as a clerk in a stationery store, clerk in a drug store, part time gardner and handyman plus being on call for all types of odd jobs. He also was a newsboy for the Star Ledger.

But despite his heavy work schedule, Greg still finds time for his hobbies. He is particularly interested in building model airplanes, and cars (he also owns a model railroad) and in sport activities of baseball, basketball, swimming and ping pong.

And in his "spare" time, "our boy Greg" is chalking up his second year as a member of the Spanish Club in school and is also a member of the 'Y" swimming team!

The Face is Familiar Column 3 November 1955

After becoming established in my job, I appeared in the November 3, 1955 edition of the paper's "Face is Familiar" column shown above. I quickly became a well-recognized part of the Bloomfield Center business community.



PETER W. RODINO, JR.
10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

DISTRICT OFFICE:
COMMERCE-COURT BUILDING
10 COMMERCE COURT
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
SALIG L. BENDIT

You're quite the
celebrity after
that newspaper
spread — I'm sure
it pleased you very
much.

I thought you might
like to have my copy
for your scrapbook.

Sincerely
Peter W Rodino Jr.

Congratulations from Congressman Peter Rodino

A few days after the article appeared in the newspaper, I received a congratulatory letter from my Congressman, Peter W. Rodino, Jr., along with his copy for my scrapbook. I was becoming a celebrity!

My J.C. Higgins Bicycle

I had now saved enough money to buy a bike of my own. It was a lightweight J.C. Higgins model made by Sears & Roebuck. There was a luggage rack over the rear wheel and a tool kit behind the seat. I rode the bike from my home and parked it in the driveway at the newspaper office. This location was much safer than at the high school. After parking the bike, I walked to school about one mile away. About three o'clock, I walked back to the office.

When my family moved to nearby Verona, New Jersey during the summer of 1956, my work and school routine became more complicated. Although Verona was only about four miles away, I decided to complete my high school education at Bloomfield. I did this by using Grandma and Grandpa Higgins' address at 135 Newark Avenue. Although I never stayed there, this became my new "official" Bloomfield residence. I kept my job at the *Independent Press* and attended summer school making up for failing grades in Algebra and History during my junior year.

From my home in Verona, I walked down Kenwood Avenue to Grove Street to Bloomfield Avenue, where two teachers picked me up at 7:30 each morning on their way to school. They were physics

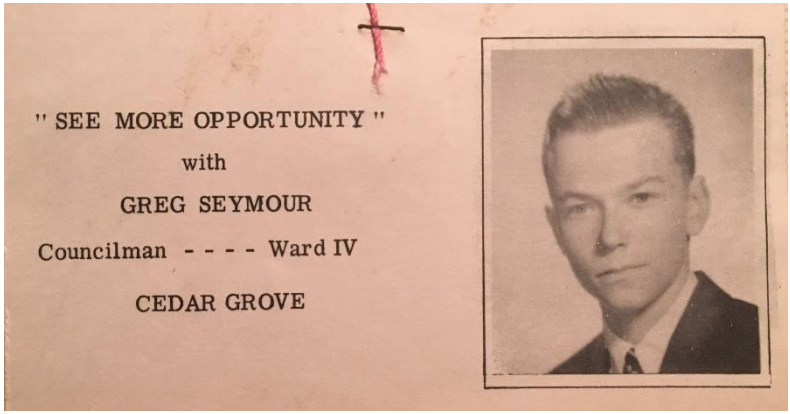
teacher, Edmund Mageehan, and Spanish teacher, Donald DeCamara, pictured below.

Edmund Mageehan - Physics Teacher

Donald DeCamara - Spanish Teacher

Bloomfield Senior High School 2002

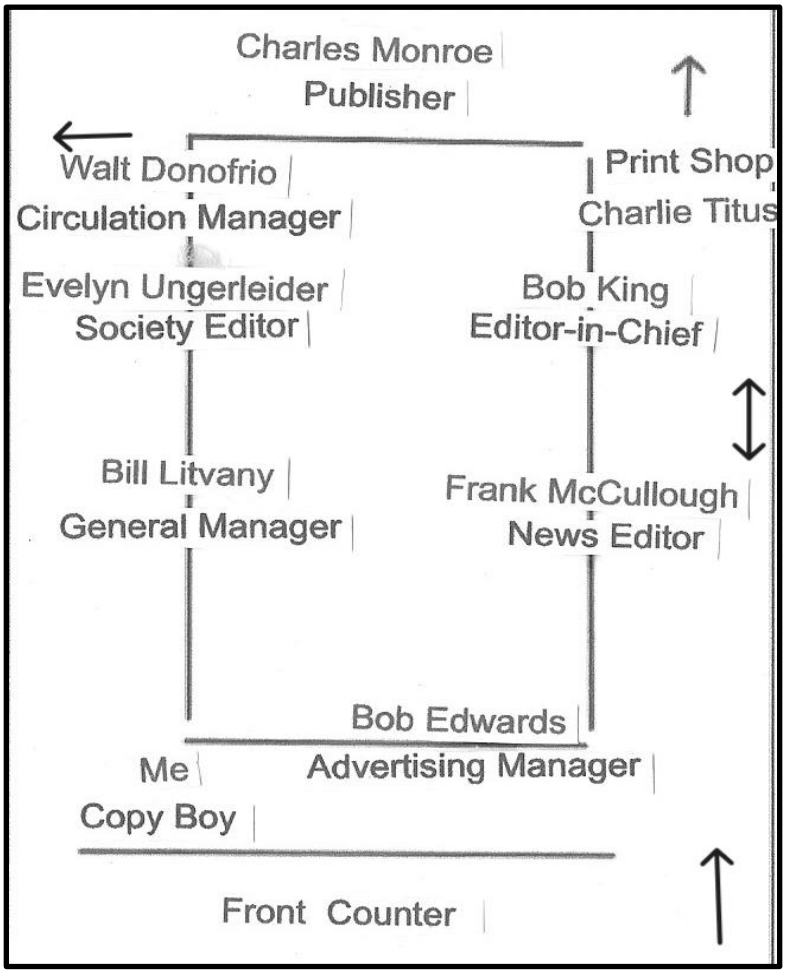
While riding with these teachers, I arrived about 8:00 A.M. With my early arrival and as a member of the Key Club, I had the honor of raising the flag in front of the school. The Key Club is the oldest and largest high school service organization in the world. As a student in Mr. Mageehan's Physics course, I was frequently assigned to work in the lab during class. I saw this as an opportunity to get out of class. I never knew what he was thinking. I passed the course with flying colors.



When the school held a mock election, I ran unopposed for Councilman from Ward IV Cedar Grove using the slogan "See More Opportunity" with Greg Seymour. No one wanted to run for Dog Catcher, the least regarded elected official.

Helen Kuhrt

After school, I walked to the newspaper office. Then, weather permitting, I took the bus home to Verona. Occasionally, Bob Edwards, the Advertising Manager, drove me home. When the weather was bad, I stayed with the Kuhrt family who lived in the apartment above the newspaper office. The Kuhrt's had three children: Helen, Roger and Al. Although Helen was an attractive high school classmate, I always slept on the sofa by myself.

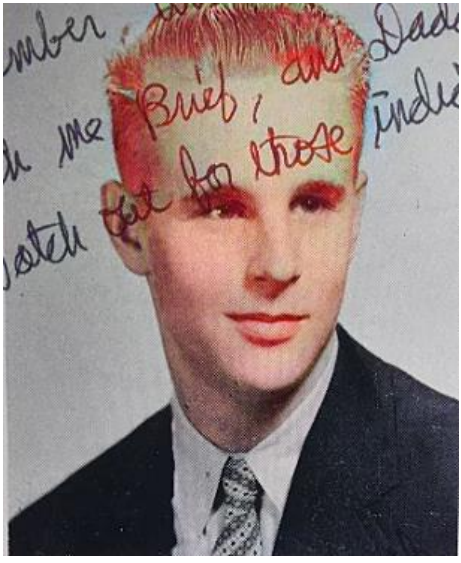


Independent Press Office and Staff

The layout of the newspaper office and names of key staff are shown above. As the copy boy, I stood behind a long counter at the entrance to the office. I helped customers find copies of previous editions and articles of interest. My "Inbox" was a shelf under the counter.

Old newspapers were stored in the "morgue" in the basement, accessible through a narrow staircase on the right. The print shop, managed by Charlie Titus, was located in the rear. The paper was printed on-site for delivery each Thursday. I attended some rollicking Christmas parties in the print shop. Charlie had a metal printing plate depicting promiscuity during the burning of Rome. Copies were printed for one of the parties. I had to get a copy for myself. It was surprising how quickly the staff disappeared from the front office to join the merriment.

Another of my primary tasks was to deliver pages with advertisements from the previous week's paper to their respective businesses in Bloomfield Center. The pages were known as "tear sheets." The businesses included Lipton's Department Store, Barry's Men's Shop, and The Royal Theater.



Chuck Stevens

On one occasion, I sneaked my close friend and classmate, Chuck Stevens, into the Royal Theater to watch a movie while delivering "tear sheets." Eventually, the theater manager, Andy Garofalo, discovered us. No more free movies.

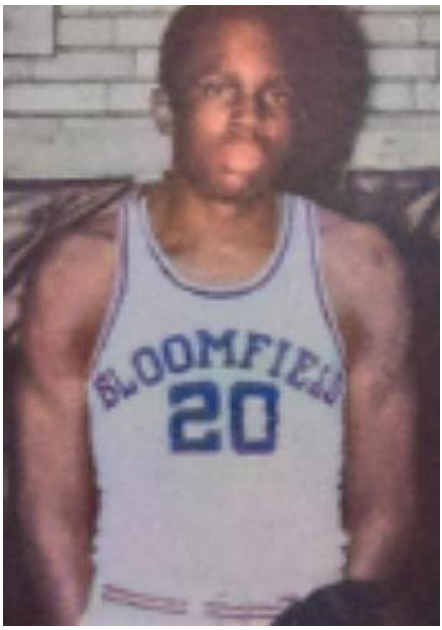
Willie's Diner with newspaper office building in background

I also made regular trips next door to Willie's Diner for coffee and sandwiches for the newspaper staff. The owner of the diner, Willy, was a Greek immigrant with a heavily accented speech.

I worked from three to five on weekdays and from eight to twelve on Saturday. On Saturday mornings, Bill Litvany arrived early to read his mail. After Bill left, I called, Chuck Stevens, to see if he wanted to go to a movie that afternoon. Chuck agreed, then stopped by to "assist" me in completing my work.

After Chuck arrived I didn't get much work done. We uncovered incriminating items such as an open whiskey bottle in Bob Edwards' desk and stories about Charles Monroe's promiscuous relationships with his servants at his mansion in nearby Glen Ridge. I rarely saw Mr. Monroe in the office. At twelve, we

went next door to the diner for lunch then onto the Royal Theater to watch a movie.



Malcolm Abernathy

I was encouraged to mail free copies of the paper to potential subscribers. Taking this one step further, I started mailing "free" copies to our star basketball player, Malcolm Abernathy. Bloomfield won the New Jersey State Basketball Championship during the 1956-57 season. I became Malcolm's "buddy."

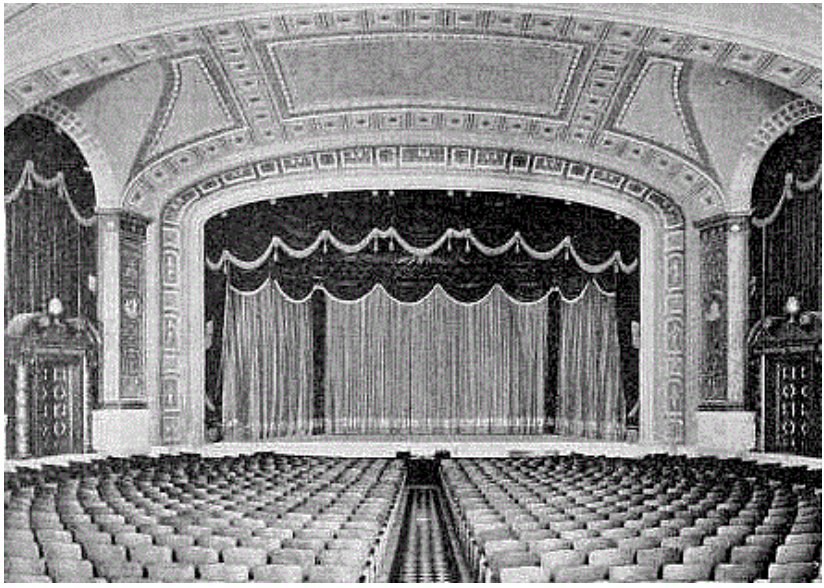
Chuck and I were pranksters. Due to limited parking near the diner, Willie often made announcements over a loudspeaker when a vehicle was not legally parked. When Chuck and I heard such an announcement, we ran back to the office. We then phoned the diner in a voice that imitated Willie's announcement.

The most memorable phone call was the one announcing that there was a "Fort" aka "Ford" in the driveway. Willy had an open view from the diner into the newspaper office. To avoid being seen, we ducked behind the desks. Eventually, Willy spotted us as we were making a call.

Goodbye *Independent Press*

After receiving a complaint from Willie's Diner, Chuck and I reached the limit to the number of pranks we played at the *Independent Press,* and I suffered the consequences. As I reached into my inbox under the counter one day, there was a typewritten note from Bill Litvany. It said, "Your resignation is accepted." I understood the message and appreciated his politeness. Nothing else needed to be said. I needed to start looking for another job which should be made easier, since I was only a few months away from getting my driver's license.

Fun at the Royal Theater



Royal Theater, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Built in the early 1920s, the Royal Theater had a large screen with elaborate decorations and seating for 1,700 on one floor. Saturday matinee movies were largely attended by kids my age. During matinees, Manager Andy Garofalo, transformed himself into "Uncle Andy." If we got out of control, Andy stopped the movie, walked to the front of the stage and lectured us until we settled down.

"Squeak Pot Doctor"

Chuck and I watched several movies at the Royal Theater. He had the knack of finding humor in scenes, which put me into riotous laughter, causing disruption throughout the theater. No one else saw the humor, so heads turned and I was told to shut up. One scene I remember was in the 1955 movie, *Crashout*, where six convicts escaped from prison. One of the convicts, William "Billy" Bendix, was wounded and needed medical treatment. The doctor, played by Percy Helton, looked like a gnome uttering in a high-pitched voice. Chuck referred to him as the "squeak pot doctor," which drove me into so much of a frenzy, I couldn't stop laughing.

Marlene Deland

Chuck once dared me to ask a good looking classmate out on a date. Marlene Deland was a cheerleader and one of the best looking girls in school. I asked her if she would go with me to see a movie at the Royal Theater. Surprisingly, she said "yes." I couldn't help but tell Chuck I got a date with Marlene.

After arriving at the Royal Theater with Marlene, we sat in the center near the front. After the movie started, I got an uneasy feeling. Then I heard snickering noises and marbles rolling down the floor from behind us. It was Chuck and all of his friends. Marlene was upset and took the bus home by herself. She chuckled about our date at our 50th reunion. All was forgiven.

By the late 1990s, the Royal Theater was no longer profitable and the building was subsequently demolished…a sad end to a once proud structure. In 2002, Chuck and I walked over the excavated ground where the theater once stood. There were no signs of what was to come. Google street view revealed in 2020, the area was being redeveloped for a multi-use building and apartments. Chuck

died on February 17, 2013. He was a real pal. The sense of humor and shenanigans we shared will remain with me for the rest of my life.

The Ideal Summer Job

Koster's Bakery Truck

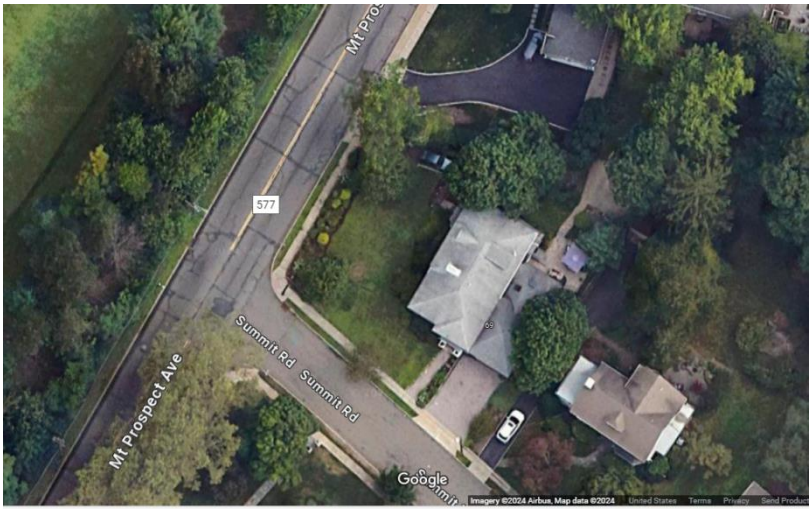
At 17, I received my driver's license which expanded job opportunities. Pop's friend, Dave Kingsland, drove a truck like the one above for Koster's Bakery. Dave usually hired a college student to assist him by driving the summer route to the Jersey Shore. *Wow! Driving to the shore each day in the summer was my kind of job!* I would have loved this, but I was still too young. The job went to a proven driver who was already well along in college.

Tossing Newspapers

Delivering Sunday Newspapers from Car

There was an opportunity to deliver Sunday newspapers by car in the Verona area. They told me I never needed to get out of the car. I rose about three A.M., wrapped and loaded the papers, and threw them from the car. *It was pitch-dark, so who knows where they landed?* After a few weeks, I discovered that this wasn't for me. Returning home in late morning, I felt like I had lost the entire day.

Other Jobs

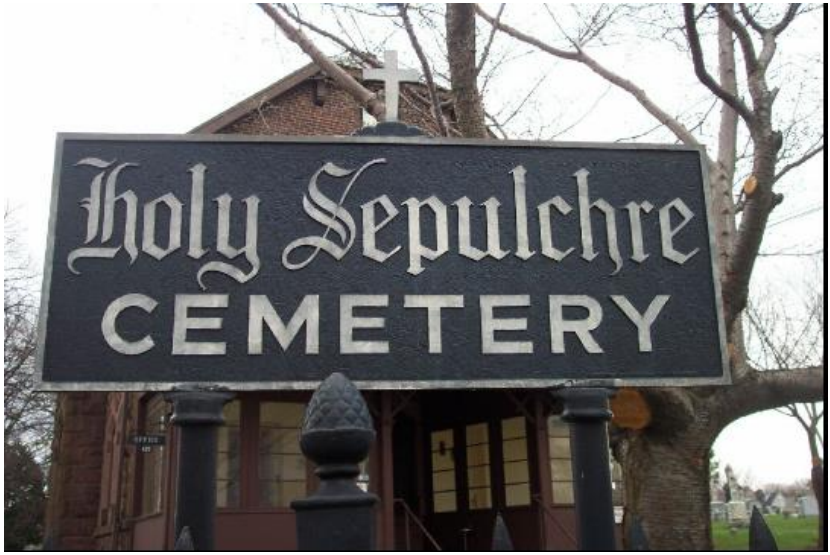


Mt. Prospect Avenue and Summit Road, Verona, New Jersey

During this time, I found jobs as a clerk at small stores on Bloomfield Avenue in Verona and Valley Road in nearby Montclair. I usually put the newspapers together on Sunday morning.

I also cut grass at a large home on the corner of Mt. Prospect Avenue and Summit Road in Verona as shown above.

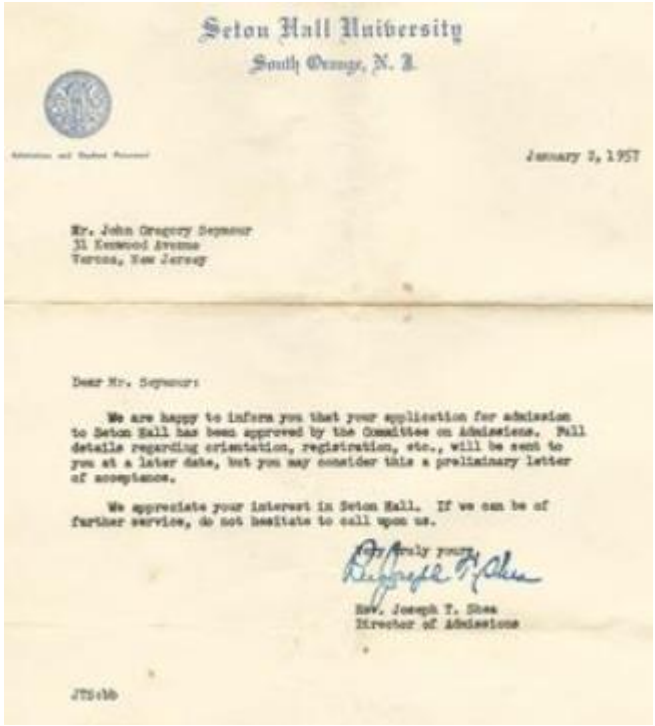
A Summer at the Cemetery



Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange, New Jersey

During the summer months of 1957, between high school graduation and the start of college, I mowed grass at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in East Orange, New Jersey.

Seton Hall University Seal



Seton Hall University
South Orange, N. J.

January 2, 1957

Mr. John Gregory Seymour
31 Kenwood Avenue
Verona, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Seymour:

We are happy to inform you that your application for admission to Seton Hall has been approved by the Committee on Admissions. Full details regarding orientation, registration, etc., will be sent to you at a later date, but you may consider this a preliminary letter of acceptance.

We appreciate your interest in Seton Hall. If we can be of further service, do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

Rev. Joseph T. Shea
Director of Admissions

JTS:bb

Seton Hall Approval for Admission Jan 1957

In January 1957, I was accepted at Seton Hall University in nearby South Orange for classes beginning in September. Holy Sepulchre and Seton Hall are both Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese of Newark. I suspect there were a few priests involved in the hiring process. The cemetery, established in 1859, was about the size of 20 city blocks.

Satellite View of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

The view of the cemetery shown above is marked with a red line representing The Garden State Parkway. To the lower left of the line is a newer section of the cemetery which provided space for hundreds of graves that needed to be moved when the Parkway was built a few years earlier.

I was part of a crew of about twenty men who worked under Superintendent Arthur Borcella. The more experienced men provided supervision. My work was made easier with a self-propelled gasoline mower. The work crew reported each morning at the location marked in red. I was assigned individual sections to complete by myself. Occasionally, I was sent to the new section by going under the parkway overpass on South Orange Avenue at the lower left. Mowing grass was relatively easy to handle. The landscape was flat and there were no bags to empty. I was able to spend the summertime outdoors and the wages were good. The grave digging was handled by others.

In recent years, I discovered some of my ancestors were buried at Holy Sepulchre. My great-grandfather's brother, Joseph Seymour, was buried there in 1896 and Grandma Seymours parents were buried there in 1912. Their "Americanized" names were Napoleon and Rosangela Layare. The Layare's were reinterred at Evergreen Cemetery in Newark in 1934 to be with other family members.

Earning Money for College

As I began my freshman year at Seton Hall in September 1957, I started working for Ted LaMothe. Ted and I fit well together, and there was little doubt he would hire me when I asked for a job. He was now the owner of Parsons LaMothe Printing Company at 50 Franklin Street, about three blocks from Fischer's corner store. I worked for Ted until graduation. Ted's brother Jim, who worked for New York Life Insurance, provided assistance when needed. Most of the time, Ted and I operated the business.

His shop was about the size of a small store. Inside the front door was an office area with a desk. A picture of his mother, whose maiden name was Parsons, was on the wall above the desk. A wall with a swinging countertop door separated the office area from the shop.

Antique Paper Cutter

There was also a manual paper cutter, similar to the one above. When I pulled the handle, I felt like I was operating a guillotine….not the place to leave your hand.

The camera work was outsourced to create negatives for the printing process. There was a glass table with backlighting for covering pinholes on the negatives. The negatives were then placed under a heat lamp which "burned" the image onto a photo sensitive aluminum plate.

Multilith Offset Printing Press

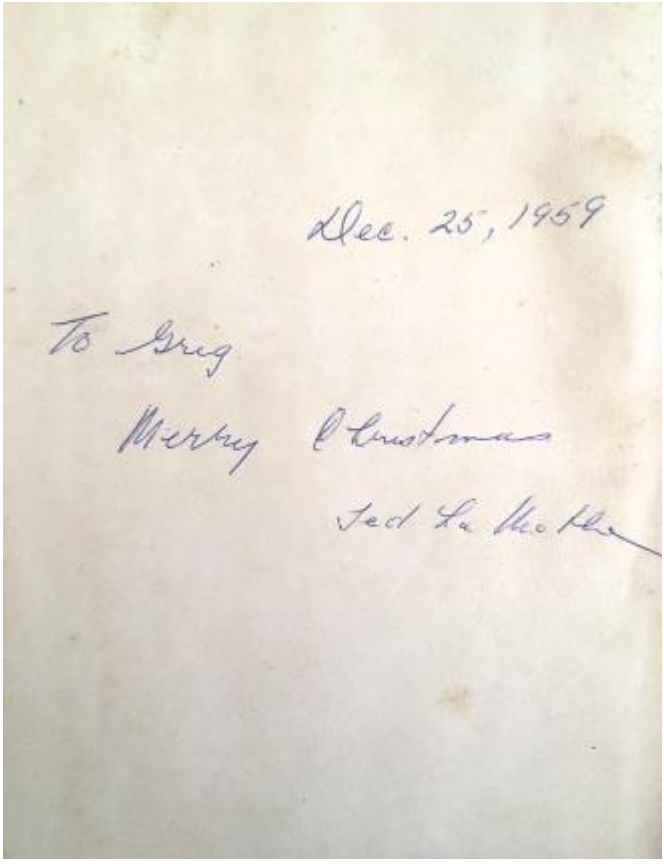
A small Multilith offset printing press, like the one above, was located in the center of the shop. Ink and water was poured into the receptacles at the top of the machine and paper was loaded and fed from the right. I wrapped the aluminum plate with the image around a roller adjacent to the large rubber roller marked in red. When the press was running, the image was transferred onto the paper from the rubber roller.

I typically printed letterheads and stationery, but I soon learned that it could print a variety of other things from business cards, to envelopes, to wedding invitations. One of our most lucrative jobs was printing advertising flyers for Montgomery Ward.

Our Refrigerator

Our Sink

We usually ate our meals inside the shop. We kept perishable items in a 1930s era refrigerator with a compressor mounted on top and washed in an old sink. Ted loved cooking soup on a hot plate and there was always a pot of coffee nearby. Our tabletop was a piece of plywood on top of a barrel. As soon as we were finished eating, we went back to work.



1959 Christmas Gift

Ted started the business in 1956. Each year we celebrated our anniversary and exchanged Christmas gifts. In 1959, he gave me a copy of the political novel by Allen Drury, *Advise and Consent.* Ted said making it through the first five years was the hardest. Having worked for him during those years, I sensed the difficulties he experienced in keeping the business going.

666 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Our anniversary celebrations were held at the Top of The Sixes Restaurant at 666 Fifth Avenue in New York City. Opened in 1957, the restaurant was located in a penthouse on the 41st floor. The atmosphere was casual and the views of midtown were superb. I frequently ordered lamb chops. In 1996, the Top of the Sixes Restaurant was closed.

Ted never married, but had a girlfriend named Molly. I never met Molly. I often stopped by Ted's shop when taking one of my girlfriends out on a date. Somehow I knew he'd still be working. The next day I sought his opinion about my date. I don't think he disliked any of them, but always said that I should look for a woman with a good disposition. Good dispositions may have been missing in many of Ted's relationships, as well as in my first marriage to Angie.

In the ensuing years, he had many of my Navy certificates laminated. When I last saw Ted in 1973, he no longer had his printing business. Still a bachelor living at the Forest Hill Apartments in Bloomfield, he was working for a Swiss company in Livingston, New Jersey. As we talked about the print shop, he handed me a cocktail glass from one of our dinners. On it was the engraving "HOGD" or "Hang On Goddammit."

50 Franklin Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey

In 2023, the frontage of the print shop showed no resemblance to its former self. How times have changed.

Corner Drug Store

Bloomfield and Grove Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Hillman Husky

During college, I worked evenings at Cliff DeMichelle's Center Drug Store at the corner of Bloomfield and Grove Avenue in Verona. After arriving at 6 P.M. I hopped in his Hillman Husky and went to his home on Montrose Avenue to retrieve his dinner. This was followed by prescription deliveries. The Husky was really fun to drive. I then stocked shelves and waited on customers until closing at 9 P.M. I remember my embarrassment when a customer asked for some condoms. The condoms were kept in a drawer behind the counter. We often refrained from talking about such items during the 1950s.

Late night Saturdays

I supplemented my income with a job at the *Newark Star Ledger* in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday evenings. Editor-In-Chief Andy Stasiak was my boss. I started around 5 P.M. and worked until after midnight, putting Sunday's paper "to bed." The office was in downtown Newark. The area was so congested, I left the car in an empty lot several blocks away to avoid paying for parking. In today's world, the car would either be stripped for parts or stolen.

My evening began with a trip to the deli next door for sandwiches and coffee. At the office, several writers sat at desks tapping on their typewriters non-stop. There was an adjacent room filled with noisy teletype machines where I retrieved stories from various news services. I often wrote short stories for the sports section.

Linotype Machine

When stories were ready for printing, the writers gave me their completed copies which I delivered to the linotype machine operators. As the operators typed the story, pieces of metal typesetting were produced for the printing press. Linotype machines are no longer in use.

Post Office, Verona, New Jersey

Christmas at the Post Office

During the rush before Christmas in 1960, I was hired by the post office to deliver mail near my home in Verona. I had two deliveries a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. On my first day I returned from my morning deliveries well before lunch. I was asked to slow it down and come back after lunch, which I did. The pay was good, over a dollar an hour, but the weather was terrible every day, steady rain with temperatures around freezing.

Work always enhanced my self-esteem with the additional benefit of making money. I never expected or asked for an allowance. Youngsters seem different today.

Lauren Seymour
1954-Present

Lauren Seymour

My youngest sister, Lauren, came into this world on December 30, 1954 at Montclair Community Hospital on Harrison Avenue in Montclair, New Jersey. Mom died there 11 days later. Lauren's middle name, Jean, may have come from our Aunt Jean Higgins. I was 15 and a sophomore in high school. My sister Tina was 14, Cindy was 10 and Kate was 7.

Getting To Know Her

I never got to know Lauren since she was so much younger and after I joined the Navy in 1961, we had completely lost touch. In my retirement years, Lauren expressed an interest in learning what Seymour family life was like before she was born. This was something I wanted to do since I was researching the Seymour

family history and writing memoirs. At the same time, I was anxious to learn more about Lauren since she grew up in a different family environment. What was life like living with her stepmother, Kathleen, and half-siblings, Anne, Peter and Eileen. As a result of this interaction, Lauren and I began exchanging email messages. These messages have allowed us to get to know each other better. In retirement, I've learned a lot about Lauren. This writing captures snippets of information from Lauren's life and my concerns over her hospitalization in 2023.

The Early Years

As depicted in the photo below, Montclair Community Hospital, closed in 2005, is now abandoned, but not forgotten.

Montclair Community Hospital, Montclair, New Jersey

Lauren was born into a world of uncertainty, having never known her mother.

Where would she live? Who would take care of her? I'm not sure where Lauren stayed, but nurses from the hospital cared for her for a few weeks. During this time, they stopped by our home on Berkeley Avenue and sat in the dining room, so we could see her.

St. Vincent's Hospital with Infant Nursery marked in Red

After searching for places where Lauren could stay, Pop found her a temporary home. It was at Halloran Pavilion, an infant nursery behind St. Vincent's Hospital in Montclair. Kathleen Eriksen was the Director of the teaching division at St. Vincent's. Kathleen's older sister. Eileen and her husband, Dave Kingsland, had been friends of the family since Pop worked at General Electric. Kathleen agreed to care for Lauren at work and at home. A specialist in infant care, she was a good fit for meeting Lauren's needs. Eileen was also a pediatric nurse.

We frequently visited the nursery on weekends to see Lauren. As Lauren got older, we usually found her in the playroom. Kathleen was a professionally-driven, 29 year old single woman,

nearly 20 years younger than Pop. Although his child care needs were now fulfilled, he still grieved for Mom

St. Vincent's Nursery, Montclair, New Jersey

The Irving Berlin song "Count Your Blessings," sung by Bing Crosby during the movie White Christmas in 1954, reminds me of Lauren.

When I'm worried and I can't sleep
I count my blessings instead of sheep
And I fall asleep counting my blessings
When my bankroll is getting small
I think of when I had none at all
And I fall asleep counting my blessings

I think about a nursery and I picture curly heads
And one by one I count them as they slumber in their beds
If you're worried and you can't sleep
Just count your blessings instead of sheep
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings

During the summer of 1955, our family vacationed at Lake Montauk on eastern Long Island. During our stay, Kathleen brought

Lauren, for a weekend visit. Our Aunt,Jean Higgins, from Buffalo, New York, joined us Jean was a warm person and compassionate person. We always looked forward to her nurturing and excellent cooking.

Visit to Montauk

St. Therese of Lisieux Church, Montauk, New York

On Sunday, our family attended Mass at St. Therese of Lisieux, Church of the Little Flower, in Montauk. I remember Lauren cried and cried. At seven months, going to Mass was out of her comfort zone.

For the first 18 months of her life, Lauren had a different kind of childhood. Each weekday, Kathleen brought Lauren with her to work. She received attentive medical care, but had limited time for bonding with our family.

Pop and Kathleen Get Married

Left to right: Magda Eriksen, Pop, Kathleen, Henry Eriksen and Grandma Seymour

On 26 July 1956, Pop and Kathleen were married at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Sheffield, Massachusetts. Above is a photo of their wedding party which included Kathleen's step-mother, father and Grandma Seymour. It seemed the wedding was in the works a few months earlier when Pop started looking at houses in Verona, New Jersey. Following the wedding, Pop and Kathleen honeymooned at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré on the St. Lawrence River, northeast of Québec City. Kathleen wanted to visit the basilica.

Basilica Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré

A Permanent Home

31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

During the summer of 1956, the family moved into a new home at 31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey shown above. Lauren now had a place she could call home.

Kathleen continued to work at St. Vincent's Nursery with Lauren accompanying her each day.

Life around our home was always on edge and never seemed to slow down. This was not the same environment we knew when Mom was alive. I lived with the fear of being criticized and put down. If there was a positive aspect, it helped me adapt to the discipline imposed by the Marine Drill instructors when I joined the Navy. Tina and I were teenagers and were never comfortable living at home. Cindy and Kate followed the household routine.

In the photo below, Lauren is sitting in the backyard of our home in Verona, preparing to roast marshmallows.

Kathleen, Greg, Lauren 2, and Pop - 1957

During the Holidays in 1958, we drove to the home of Pop's brother, Justin, in West Orange, New Jersey, where I took the photo below.

Christmas 1958

First row left to right: Cousin Eleanor 11, Kate 11 and Lauren 3

Second row left to right: Aunt Rosemary, Grandma Seymour, Anne 1 and Kathleen

Third row left to right: Uncle Justin, Cindy 13, Tina 17, Cousin Mark 13 and Pop

(Anne was our newest addition)

Stress

Pop began adapting to tense family situations by drinking heavily after work. After getting off the bus from New York, he frequently stopped by the Home Liquor Store and purchased bottles of ale. One night he must have started drinking early and forgot to

get off the bus. Once home, he settled into the alcove off the dining room watching television. During weekends, one of Pop's favorite pastimes was to clean out the refrigerator. Using leftovers, he created a homemade soup concoction of his own. I don't think anyone ever ate it.

Our family soon expanded to seven with the birth of Anne in 1957, Peter in 1959 and Eileen in 1963. Tina and I had our sights set on going our own ways. In 1961, I joined the Navy and Tina married to escape from an unhappy home.

At the Shore

Peter, Lauren and Pop with striped bass on the beach in Manasquan, New Jersey – 1962

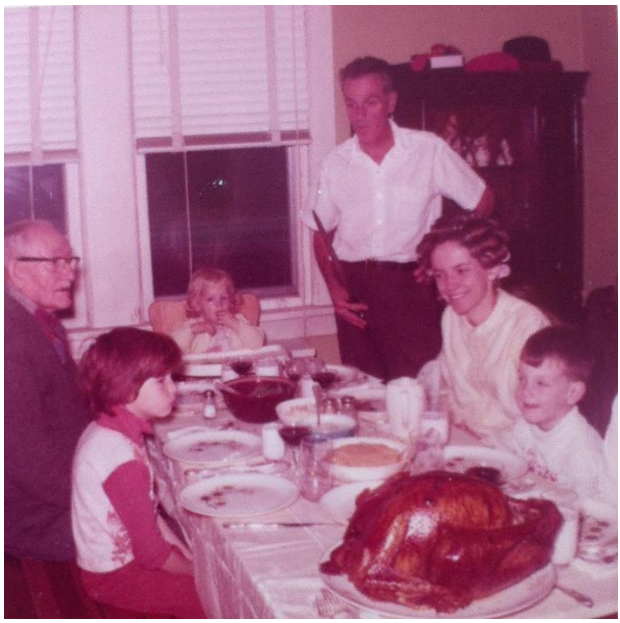
A New Home

In 1964, the family consisted of Pop, Kathleen, Cindy, Kate, Lauren, Anne, Peter and Eileen. They moved from Verona to Northfield, New Jersey, near Atlantic City where Kathleen purchased a nursing home. She named the home in memory of her stepmother, Magda Eriksen. Lauren was squeezed in the middle of a blended family. *How did she fit in?*

They lived in a house adjacent to the nursing home, owned and operated by Kathleen. The home was named in memory of Kathleen's stepmother, Magda Eriksen. Her father, Henry Eriksen, lived in one of the units at the home.

1001 Tilton Road, Northfield, New Jersey

The Google Earth view of the property in 2023, looks nothing like what I remember. The building in the center has the same footprint as the nursing home. However, the house which was at the top of the photograph near the driveway entrance, is now gone.



Henry Eriksen (Kathleen's father), Lauren 9, Anne, Pop, Cindy and Peter

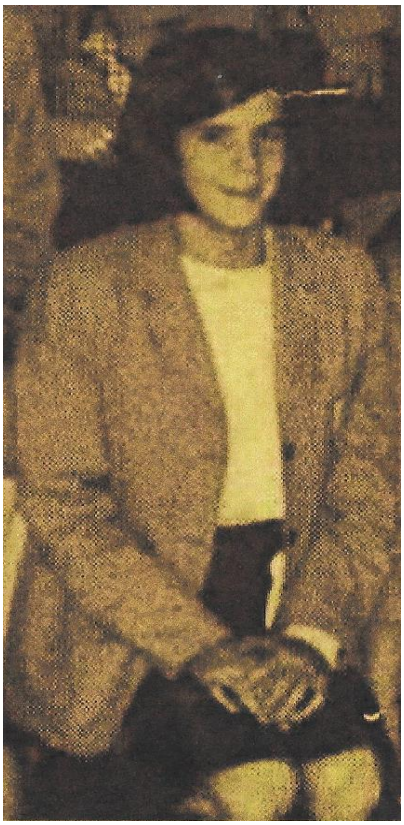
Thanksgiving 1964

The photo above shows the family enjoying Thanksgiving dinner in their new home in Northfield.

The Seymour Family c1968

Left to right: Pop, Cindy, Eileen, Anne, Kathleen, Lauren and Peter

Lauren was confirmed at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Pleasantville, New Jersey in 1968. She selected Anne as her confirmation name. Janet Merel was her sponsor. St Peter's was closed in 2010.



Lauren Seymour at Holy Spirit High School, Absecon, New Jersey 1969

Lauren attended Holy Spirit High School, then went to college in Maine. After college, she returned to the Atlantic City area and has lived there nearly all her life. She lived at 110 North Jasper Avenue #B in Margate City and at 22 North Raleigh Avenue in Atlantic City. Margate City was only a few miles across the bridge from where she lived in Northfield. Cindy and Kate married in 1969 and 1972, respectively.

Ready to Start

My visits home from the Navy were infrequent and I rarely saw Lauren. One visit stands out in particular because I traveled home by Navy aircraft. While based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia, in 1969, I flew a T-28 Trojan home on a proficiency flight. I landed at the Federal Aviation Administration's Technical Center (now Atlantic City International Airport), only a short distance from the nursing home. Before landing, I "buzzed" the nursing home. Everyone knew I was coming. Later that day, the family saw me off at the airport. I pressed the starter to turn the propeller and switched on the ignition to ignite the engine. Family members were appalled by the clanking noises and puffs of smoke discharged by the engine.

"You're going to fly that thing?" they yelled.

To me, it was perfectly normal.

More pictures of the T-28 are shown below.

T-28 Flying Overwater

T-28s Flying in Formation

I enjoyed flying this aircraft so much, I wrote a separate chapter on my T-28 Adventures.

When I was selected to participate in the Navy's professional development program, I was thrilled to receive an invitation to collaborate with RCA in New Jersey for the 1973-74 academic year. I would be close to home! I arranged to live at the Philadelphia Naval Base and work out of the RCA plant in Camden, New Jersey. Unfortunately, my first trip home to Northfield became a reminder of our family's dysfunction. Kathleen was in charge of the nursing home and at age 68, Pop was showing signs he was ready to become a patient.

A short time later, Lauren and I decided to drive to North Jersey to visit friends and family. Since joining the Navy, I had only seen Lauren during my short visits home. She was now living on her own and I wondered what she really was like?

It was hard to start a conversation during our two hour drive. *What was family life like growing up? Did you enjoy attending college in Maine? Do you have any boyfriends? How do you like your job?* Most of the time we sat there silently listening to instructional tapes from RCA on the cassette player. I did not have a radio. *Why was she so withdrawn? Perhaps my questions were too direct with only me in mind. In retrospect, I should have allowed time for Lauren to tell me about herself.*

During my year at RCA, I was out of touch with Lauren. My trips home were infrequent and my conversations with Pop were usually brief. It seemed he had lost his zest for life.

Lauren 1979

Pop's Death

In January 1980, Pop was hospitalized at the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Pomona, New Jersey. He was in critical condition following the removal of his big toe. The toe had become infected, limiting circulation, causing gangrene. I was notified at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily after landing my C-131 Convair following a six-hour flight from Cairo, Egypt.

From Sigonella, I caught a ride on an Air Force C-141 Starlifter to Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia. My wife, Hope, who was already in Virginia, drove to Norfolk to pick me up. Hope and her

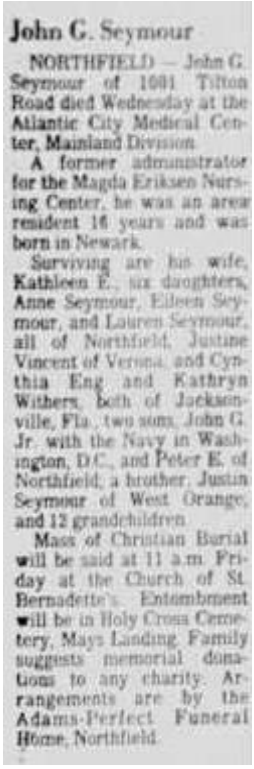
son James had been evacuated from our home in Bahrain due to the hostage crisis in Iran.

Pop with granddaughters, Megan and Sarah Eng c1978

I hadn't seen Pop in over two years. Above is the last picture I have of him with Cindy's daughters, Megan and Sarah.

Hope and I drove to New Jersey and stayed near the hospital. When Pop first saw me, he glanced toward the foot where his toe was removed. I was not sure whether he recognized me. When I spoke my childhood nickname, "Noodles," he recognized me immediately. Pop started calling me Noodles when I was beginning to lose my baby teeth and needed something soft to chew. His remedy was to give me some noodles. I soon became addicted. I remember a college basketball game was playing on TV. It reminded me of how much Pop liked to watch basketball.

As my stepmother, Kathleen, came into the room, the situation became tense. As a registered nurse, she viewed Pop's condition from a clinical perspective, showing little empathy toward any of us. This was Hope's first encounter with Kathleen, and she was repelled by her demeanor. On subsequent occasions, Hope made a point to steer me clear of my stepmother, and I'm glad she did. On the 23rd, Pop died of cardiorespiratory arrest.



John G. Seymour

NORTHFIELD — John G. Seymour of 1081 Tilton Road died Wednesday at the Atlantic City Medical Center, Mainland Division.

A former administrator for the Magda Eriksen Nursing Center, he was an area resident 16 years and was born in Newark.

Surviving are his wife, Kathleen E.; six daughters, Anne Seymour, Eileen Seymour, and Lauren Seymour, all of Northfield, Justine Vincent of Verona, and Cynthia Eng and Kathryn Withers, both of Jacksonville, Fla.; two sons, John G. Jr. with the Navy in Washington, D.C., and Peter E. of Northfield; a brother, Justin Seymour of West Orange; and 12 grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be said at 11 a.m. Friday at the Church of St. Bernadette's. Entombment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Mays Landing. Family suggests memorial donations to any charity. Arrangements are by the Adams-Perfect Funeral Home, Northfield.

John Seymour Obituary 24 Jan 1980 Press of Atlantic City

His viewing was at the Adams-Perfect Funeral Home in Northfield, New Jersey. The manager comforted me by saying "I knew your father. He was a good man." *I began to wonder if he really did know my father.* While viewing Pop in the casket, I remember my sister Tina saying, "He's at peace. He's with her (our mom) now." I was a pallbearer at his funeral mass at St. Bernadette's Church in Northfield. I don't remember speaking with

Lauren. I do remember the all-black leisure suit I used when flying, fitted the occasion.

My All-Black Leisure Flight Suit

Pop's casket was placed in the Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery in Mays Landing, New Jersey. As we left the cemetery a feeling of peace came over me. Everything was alright. I didn't stay long after the funeral and returned to Norfolk to catch an Air Force C-5 Galaxy flight back to Bahrain. A few days later I was back in Bahrain wondering if or when the wives and children would return.

Fast forward 22 years. When my wife, Gail and I visited the casinos in Atlantic City in 2002, I stopped by the customer service desk at Caesars and asked for Lauren. Her business card was in a holder on the counter. When I tried to call her, there was no answer, so I left a voicemail. *Why didn't she return my call?* I never did get to see her. *Was she avoiding me?*

Family Reunion in December 2009

(I'm sitting in the center. Lauren is kneeling behind me).

In 2009, I reunited with Lauren during a family reunion at the home of my sister, Tina, in Verona, New Jersey pictured above.

When Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey in October 2012, I called Lauren to see if she was OK, since she was only a few blocks from the water. Soon after, Lauren and I started connecting on the Internet and I began sharing my life stories with her on Google Docs. She was particularly impressed when I wrote that I was awarded the Bronze Star. It was in recognition of the rescue of a B-52 crew which bailed out in a typhoon west of Guam in 1972. It was something I had long since forgotten, but to her it was a big deal. Understandably, she was particularly interested in learning about family life before she was born.

Epilogue

When I received the news Lauren had been hospitalized at Cooper Hospital in Camden, New Jersey on Thursday, February 23, 2023, I was prompted to write a reflection of her life. It made me realize how short-lived we are and how little we know about each other.

Lauren went to her doctor with a sore throat. She was sent to the emergency room to be evaluated. They found a mass in her throat and tried to drain it. When it began to swell more, they inserted a breathing tube to keep the airway open. She was transferred to the hospital and placed in the intensive care unit where she was sedated and placed on a ventilator. A biopsy and/or surgery was planned. Suddenly, life took on a new meaning.

I prayed with my two Bible study groups for the doctors to reduce the mass and restore normal breathing On Tuesday, February 28th, the tube was removed and Lauren began breathing on her own. Although tired and weak, she was sitting up and able to speak. The initial biopsy results were negative and no surgery was planned. Her treatment plan called for physical therapy and steroids for four weeks. After this time, images were to be taken and her situation reassessed. *Our prayers are being answered.*

On Sunday, March 12th, we learned Lauren was to be released from rehab by mid-week. The swelling in her throat had subsided and her prognosis looked very good. She is now home and fully recovered.

The power of prayer!

Lake Montauk and Cooks Pond
1955-1981

Beginning in the summer of 1955, my family vacationed at Lake Montauk near Montauk Point on the extreme eastern end of Long Island, New York. Originally a freshwater lake, it was opened to Block Island Sound during the 1920s to develop a port to turn Montauk into the "Miami Beach of the North." Instead, it has now become home to the largest commercial and sport fishing fleets in the State of New York.

Montauk Point, Long Island, New York
Vacation place marked by red dot on eastern shore of Lake Montauk

Vacation plans were started by Pop and his fishing buddy, Bill Perry. Bill had stayed at Montauk with Jack and Lil Gauthier who rented rooms to guests during the summer. Bill recommended them to Pop who arranged for us to stay there for our vacation. There were six of us: Pop, my sisters Tina 14, Cindy 10, Kate 8, I was 15, and Aunt Jean Higgins from Buffalo, New York. Jean was the widow of my granduncle, Frank Higgins. We all squeezed into our old 1942 Dodge two-door coupe.

It seemed like Jean was always there to care for my sisters and me, particularly following the death of our mother in January 1955. Jean was a gifted caregiver with eight grown children of her own. She was such an exceptionally good cook that we thought she worked in a restaurant. We found out she just enjoyed cooking at home. It was always a joy to have her with us.

The Gauthier's home, named Silver Sands, was on the shore of Lake Montauk at the halfway point on East Lake Drive. Silver Sands was convenient to the Sound to the north and the ocean to the south. It was adjacent to Montauk State Park. Montauk Point Lighthouse was about five miles east. The distance across the lake was about 1.5 miles.

MONTAUK POINT LIGHTHOUSE
COMMISSIONED BY PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON
CONSTRUCTED 1796 FIRST LIGHTHOUSE IN NEW YORK STATE

Montauk Point Lighthouse 1796

It felt like a quiet place in the country. There were no arcades, amusements, or boardwalks as on the Jersey shore. The closest grocery store was the IGA in Amagansett about 12 miles west. Farther west, there was a movie theater on Main Street in East Hampton and White's Drug Store in Sag Harbor. This was a new adventure.

Although less than 150 miles from our home in Bloomfield, New Jersey, it was an all day trip to Montauk. We had to cross New York City and surrounding areas. After reaching Idlewild Airport (now John F. Kennedy Airport) in the Borough of Queens, we started our long drive east to the end of the island along Route 27, called the Sunrise Highway.

As we entered Suffolk County, Route 27 became known as the Montauk Highway. Along the route, I remember the quaint little towns of Moriches, Hampton Bays, Southampton, Water Mill, Bridgehampton, East Hampton, and Amagansett.

Old Real Estate Office Building

Nearing the end of our journey, the highway became Main Street in the small town of Montauk. North of town there was a small railroad station, the eastern terminus of the Long Island Railroad. There was also an odd shaped building, previously used as a real estate office to attract investments in properties. On the left was Johnny's Tackle Shop, which is still in business today. Pop was also known as Johnny and he loved to fish. No doubt he would get to know Johnny.

Johnny's Tackle, Montauk, NY

Wrong Side of the Lake

It was getting dark. Driving a few miles farther, we spotted a sign pointing to Lake Montauk. We drove and drove and drove. Something wasn't right. We finally came to the end of the road facing a marina. It was Gosman's Dock. Suddenly we realized we were on the west side of the lake. This was the wrong side!

Gosman's Dock at inlet on west side of Lake Montauk

We then drove the long three miles back to the Montauk Highway. After turning left, we discovered the less obvious turn to East Lake Drive. A short time later, we caught a glimpse of some lights on the left side of the road. It was our destination! Silver Sands!

After waiting a long time, Lil Gauthier greeted us. "Where have you been?" she asked. "Over at Gosman's Dock," we replied. Like many residents, her husband, Jack, worked in New York City during the week, returning to Montauk each weekend. The Gauthiers had set aside a few rooms in their large house for us to stay.

I rose early the next morning to do some exploring. I started out by walking down the road toward the Sound. On the way I passed Montauk Airport, which seemed deserted. Most of the flights to Montauk were by seaplane. Dozens of seaplanes were parked in the water at the southern end of the lake. Most were weekend commuters.

When I arrived at the Sound, there was a jetty to the left and a long, uncluttered beach to the right. On a clear day you could see Block Island, 14 miles away. My father would be pleased at the prospect of fishing off the jetty and surf casting from the beach.

Deer Chasing

Returning to the house, I discovered Montauk State Park. It was filled with sand dunes, wind swept trees, and scrub brush. The most exciting thing about the park was the deer. Climbing through a protective fence and onto the dunes, I was excited to suddenly come across deer in a natural environment. I was amazed at how easily they could be detected and tracked. It was so quiet I would hear their rustling noises in the brush before spotting one. Chasing the deer became a favorite pastime during the vacation.

Surf Casting

Pop loved to go surf casting. He was on the beach nearly every day. One of his favorite locations was known as Ditch Plains on the ocean. When he returned from some of his outings, he often talked about the big ones that got away. Late one afternoon I went with Pop to surf cast on the Sound. The bluefish were running! We both caught one without a fight and hurried back to the house to have them for dinner. Lil did the cooking. She added some type of wine. Being fresh out of the water, they were delicious. I had never tasted fish this good before.

Lauren's Visit

My eight-month-old sister, Lauren, came to visit us that summer with her caregiver, Kathleen Eriksen. After my mother's death, arrangements were made with Kathleen to care for Lauren. Kathleen was the registered nurse in charge of the infant care center at St. Vincent's Hospital in Montclair, New Jersey. Pop and Kathleen were married the following summer and the family moved into our new home at 31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey.

St. Therese of Lisieux Church, Montauk, New York

On Sunday, our family attended Mass at St. Therese of Lisieux, Church of the Little Flower, in Montauk. St. Therese was a nun at the Carmelite Convent in Lisieux, France, during the late 1800s. Her name was brought to Montauk by French Canadians from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. I remember Lauren cried and cried. It was not a very comfortable environment for a small infant.

Going to the Movies

During this vacation we drove to Bridgehampton to see a black and white movie at the Hamptons Drive-In theater. The movie was based on the book *Not As A Stranger*. The best part of the movie was the number of known actors that included Robert Mitchum, Olivia De Havilland, Frank Sinatra, Gloria Grahame, Broderick Crawford, Charles Bickford, Lon Chaney, Jr., Harry Morgan, and Lee Marvin. We also saw a re-release of the Wizard of Oz at the movie theater in East Hampton.

Return to Montauk

In August 1956, we went to Montauk to stay with the Gauthiers again. We made this trip in our new 1951 Ford Station Wagon. Kathleen brought my sister, Lauren, now 19 months, along in her car. Aunt Jean joined us again this year. The Gauthiers had now expanded their accommodations with a new two-story building next to their house. Aunt Jean, Tina, Cindy, Kate and I stayed on the second floor. Pop, Kathleen and Lauren stayed in the main house. My half sister, Anne, born the following May, believes she was conceived here. My Aunt Doris and Uncle Bob Fieldhouse came to visit from their home in Wantagh, Long Island.

Silver Sands, East Lake Drive, Lake Montauk August 1956
Kate Seymour 9 and me 16 raising the flag in foreground

Bloomfield High School Flag Pole

That summer I had the privilege of raising the flag, a function performed each day before the start of high school in Bloomfield.

Rowing Across the Lake

Pop painted the underside of a rowboat and received a hefty sunburn on the lower part of his legs. He gave up fishing for the next few days and stayed out of the sun as he recovered.

When the paint had dried on the rowboat, I decided to take it on a trial run. I said to myself, "Why not row to the other side?" It was a lazy summer day and the opposite shore was in plain sight. So off I went to the other side. No problem.

After learning of my departure and not seeing me anywhere on the lake, Pop decided to call the Coast Guard. There was a Coast Guard station at the north end of the lake facing the inlet. Being a fisherman, Pop was well aware of the effect of the tides and currents in the area around the lake.

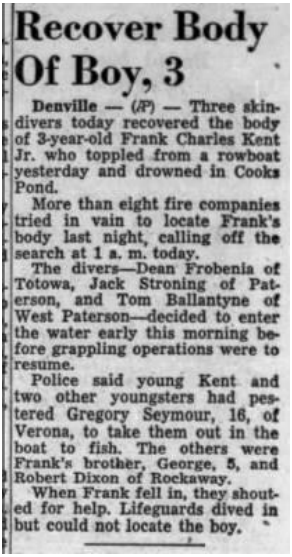
Although the tidal fluctuation was between three and four feet, a greater concern was the current. Wind conditions over the Sound often pushed or pulled water in and out of the lake. He feared that the current might pull me through the inlet and into the Sound. This was a strong possibility, particularly if I had reached the deep water channel near the entrance to the inlet.

I remember my Aunt Doris and Uncle Bob drove to the west side of the lake. As I approached the shore, I saw someone waving to me. It was Uncle Bob. When I reached the shore, Bob stepped into the boat. He said very little and quietly rowed me back to the other side. As a sixteen year old, I felt there was nothing to worry about, having traversed the lake in a fairly straight line. Pop did not allow me to use the boat for the remainder of the vacation.

Drowning at Cooks Pond

Cooks Pond, Denville, New Jersey

A short time after our vacation in Montauk, I went out in a rowboat again with a tragic outcome. This tragedy is described in the news article below from newspapers.com



Recover Body Of Boy, 3

Denville — (AP) — Three skin-divers today recovered the body of 3-year-old Frank Charles Kent Jr. who toppled from a rowboat yesterday and drowned in Cooks Pond.

More than eight fire companies tried in vain to locate Frank's body last night, calling off the search at 1 a. m. today.

The divers—Dean Frobenia of Totowa, Jack Stroning of Paterson, and Tom Ballantyne of West Paterson—decided to enter the water early this morning before grappling operations were to resume.

Police said young Kent and two other youngsters had pestered Gregory Seymour, 16, of Verona, to take them out in the boat to fish. The others were Frank's brother, George, 5, and Robert Dixon of Rockaway.

When Frank fell in, they shouted for help. Lifeguards dived in but could not locate the boy.

Reflection

Maybe I should have paid more attention to Pop about taking rowboats out on the water by myself. When my step-mother, Kathleen, my sisters and I took a day trip to Cooks Pond in Denville, New Jersey I never gave Lake Montauk much thought. Cooks Pond was much smaller and not affected by tides and currents. After getting permission from, Kathleen, to rent a rowboat, I started out by myself rowing toward the middle. I noticed three younger boys waving from the other side, encouraging me to give them a ride. They were George Kent, 5, his younger brother Frank, 3, and Robert Dixon of Rockaway. Robert was about 5. I then made a fatal mistake.with lasting repercussions. I pulled over to the side, allowing the boys to join me. As a 16-year-old boy, I saw no danger in taking them on a boat ride on a small lake. None of us had life jackets. As I rowed away from shore back toward the middle, I heard a whooshing sound. Frank had slipped into the water near the back of the boat. I scanned the water waiting for him to appear. *Where did he go? Was he caught under the boat?* There was not a sound. I hesitated to jump in after him fearing danger to everyone else. We all frantically yelled for help. When lifeguards arrived, they could not locate the boy. *What happened to him?* The water was calm and it was a beautiful, sunny afternoon. Eight fire companies from surrounding towns were called, but their search was suspended at 1 A.M.

During the ride home, I was shaken like never before. When I arrived at the front door, I found a Bible and I prayed. Three skin divers located the body the next day. It was found at the bottom of the lake, caught in the roots of a tree stump. He probably did not know how to swim and may have hit his head on the bottom of the boat. I will never know.

The next morning, Pop drove me to the Kent home in the wooded area surrounding the lake. I was still shaken, not knowing

what to say when I saw his parents. Frank's mother and father were waiting there. When I saw them, I knew everything would be alright. They were not as angry as I had anticipated. There was no talk of a lawsuit. Rather they offered me comfort, saying I was not to blame for Frank's death. We had a very deep and solemn conversation. I felt somewhat relieved, but my heart was still broken.

Driving to Montauk

When I started driving the station wagon, I drove to Montauk on two occasions. The first was during college with my friend Ken Johnston. The second was in June 1961 as a last hurrah before leaving to join the Navy at Pensacola, Florida. My friend Chuck Stevens came with me on this trip. Chuck was also preparing to join the Navy at Newport, Rhode Island.

We booked a room at Silver Sands. We convinced ourselves we could get free room and board in exchange for completing odd jobs around the property. The odd jobs never materialized and in the end we were asked to pay for our stay. I don't think we ever paid her. The truth is Chuck and I had our own agenda and were likely not around when Lil had a job for us.

Soon after our visit, the property was sold and Jack and Lil retired to Boynton Beach, Florida.

Flying Over Lake Montauk

Flying the T-28

While assigned to staff duty at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia during the late ‘60s, I was required to maintain my flight proficiency. I did so by flying one of the station’s single-engine T-28 training aircraft. I loved flying the T-28 and the thrill of having the freedom to pick a place to go. On one flight to the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point, Rhode Island on a clear day, I could not pass up the opportunity to revisit Lake Montauk from the air.

Having received permission to fly under visual flight rules, I descended to a very low altitude and circled the lake. Many of the places I remembered were still there. In my excitement, I became so captivated by what I saw, I forgot about the fuel remaining.

When I landed at Quonset and refueled, the lineman asked, “How much fuel does this airplane hold?” I wasn’t sure. The lineman then said, “Well I just put 129 gallons into this plane.” After checking the fuel capacity of a T-28, I realized I was flying on reserve fuel on final approach to landing.

Revisiting Montauk

After retiring from the Navy in 1981 and settling into our new home in Huntington, New York, my wife, Hope, and I took a ride to Montauk. On the way, our attention was drawn to a hammock for sale at a roadside store in East Hampton We purchased the hammock and enjoyed using it in our backyard where we had many tall trees.

When we reached Montauk, the town appeared much the same as in earlier years. The area surrounding the lake, however, was different. Driving toward the Sound on East Lake Drive, I looked for Silver Sands. It seemed time had taken it away.

1951 Ford Station Wagon 1956-1961 Part 1

In early 1956, my father replaced our ailing 1942 Dodge Coupe with a 1951 Ford Country Squire station wagon. Pop paid $550, an equivalent value of about $6,236 in 2024. My grandmother provided the money from my grandfather's estate. Although used, the wagon had the appearance of a brand new car. The 1951 Country Squires were the last in a line of true "woodies." The wood was manufactured at Ford's Iron Mountain plant on Michigan's Upper Peninsula with lumber from forests owned by the company. Its cream color body complemented the wood side panels. It had a flathead V-8 engine with a three-speed manual transmission. There were two side doors and at the rear was a tailgate that opened on top and bottom. A spare tire was mounted on the bottom door.

1951 Ford Country Squire Station Wagon
In front of my home at 31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

With three rows of vinyl seats, there was now enough room for the whole family. The front seat was a bench type. The two second row seats folded forward. The one piece third row seat could be removed from the wagon when cargo space was needed. The manual shift was on the steering column. There were four gears: first, second, third, and reverse. Around the speedometer were gauges displaying oil pressure, battery amperage, temperature, and fuel level. A five-digit odometer was at the bottom. *Was it five because most cars never made it to 100,000 miles?*

1951 Ford Country Squire Dashboard

In the middle of the dashboard was a small mechanical clock and an AM radio. The clock never seemed to work. The radio was a necessity. It was exclusively tuned to a rock and roll station. A start button, ignition switch and choke were also on the dashboard. On the 1942 Dodge the starter was located above the accelerator. The windshield wipers were activated by vacuum air from the engine.

Getting My Driver's License

1957 Dodge Coronet with Push Button Drive on left side of steering wheel

The minimum driving age in New Jersey was 17. As I approached my 17th birthday in November 1956, I became obsessed with getting my driver's license. In preparation, I took the Driver's Education Course offered during my junior year at Bloomfield High School. The school had just purchased a new gold and ivory Dodge Coronet configured for driver's education. Although most cars came with manual transmissions, thus vehicle had an automatic transmission with push buttons for neutral, reverse, drive, and low. This feature was known as "push button drive."

The school made the car available to students to take the road test at the state driving test facility at the end of January and June. I was caught in between. January had already passed and in June I was expected to graduate. I looked for someone with a car with an automatic transmission who would be willing to take me for the road

test. I came up empty. Although I was still a novice, I decided to risk taking the test in a vehicle with the more popular standard shift. Was it worth it? To a teenager without a car, it was.

1949 Ford 4 Door Sedan

I couldn't get Pop to take me in the station wagon as he usually commuted by bus to work in New York City during the week. However, a co-worker at the *Independent Press*, Frank McCullough, agreed to take me in his car. Frank had a 1949 Ford with a manual shift. Frank drove me to the nearest road testing location in Lodi, New Jersey. I boldly took the test and failed. I could not coordinate the clutch, shift, and steering wheel at the same time. Frank was upset and I was embarrassed. I had to learn how to drive with a stick shift.

1955 Nash Metropolitan

I found another co-worker, Roger Sutter, who owned a 1955 Nash Metropolitan like the one shown above. The Metropolitan had a three-speed manual transmission. Roger was a bachelor with the time and patience to teach me the art of shifting. We drove through different neighborhoods on Sundays, allowing me ample time to practice. The Metropolitan was a lot of fun to drive. After a few Sundays, I was ready to take the road test again.

Mike Mazur

Pop's station wagon was also available for practice during the week, when he was working in New York City. On his commute, Pop usually drove the station wagon to the bus stop and parked it on a nearby side street. The street was just a few blocks north of Bloomfield High School. So after school during the week, I found the key under the floor mat and practiced using its shift. A classmate with a license, Mike Mazur, rode with me. We always returned to the same parking space. Pop never knew the car had been driven. I don't think he ever checked the gas gauge or odometer.

Once I had enough confidence in my ability to pass the road test, I drove Pop's station wagon to the road testing facility in Lodi by myself. Although I was required to have a licensed driver in the car with me, I took a chance going alone. *How was my examiner to know I had no one with me?* I discreetly parked the car outside the building, walked into the office, came back out with an examiner, took the test and passed. No questions were asked about how I got there. With two cars in the family, the keys to the station wagon were gradually turned over to me.

My Own Car

Over the next four years, I was consumed by the station wagon. It became the centerpiece of my life. While it brought freedom, excitement, adventure, and romance, it also brought accidents, traffic citations, high expenses and lessons learned.

I meticulously cared for the station wagon. Pop usually asked why I washed the wagon with a dirty rag. I replied it was the only rag that I could find. After washing, I cleaned the floor mats and applied Simoniz to the painted and wood surfaces. For the wood surfaces, Pop suggested I apply the Simoniz with a plain piece of steel wool. Chrome polish was used on the bumpers and grille, Windex on the windows, and vinyl cleaner on the seats. After finishing, I usually took the wagon on a short drive.

My first practical use of the station wagon was driving to an Italian restaurant on Bloomfield Avenue in Verona to pick up a pizza. I was proud of my accomplishment. As graduation approached, I began using the car for commuting to school and work.

My First Love

Kay Leith

In the spring of 1957, I used the station wagon to take my date, Kay Leith, to our senior prom at the Chanticleer Night Club in Summit, New Jersey. Kay was in the junior class. I remember eating scallops for dinner. They did not agree with me and I have since had second thoughts about eating shellfish. Most of us were determined to stay up all night. I arrived home about 4 A.M. I still went to school the next day to pick up my yearbook.

Cuddling up at the Drive-In

Soon after the prom, Kay and I began "going steady." The hit song "A White Sport Coat and a Pink Carnation" by Marty Robbins, became part of my world. I gave Kay my ring and she wore it around

her neck. With the wagon, a trip to any drive-in theater was always at the top of the list of places to go on a date. It was the ideal place to be alone for a few hours cuddled up on the bench seat. When the movie was over, I drove Kay home, where we parked on the street and "talked" for hours. Kay and I spent a summer filled with bliss. Our feelings were best expressed in the songs "Young Love, First Love" by Sonny James and "April Love" by Pat Boone. We went "steady" until the beginning of 1958, when we started drifting apart, as I found it difficult to keep up with the demands of college.

Following graduation on June 12, 1957, I drove to the Jersey shore on the Garden State Parkway, which opened three years earlier. Going to the shore was like the rite of passage.

I attached the dark red tassel from my cap to the rear view mirror as a sign I had graduated.

Driving to Work

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange, New Jersey

A few days later, I began my summer grass cutting job at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in East Orange, New Jersey. The job was to help offset the cost of my college tuition. I drove the station wagon to the cemetery every day.

While on my way to work at the cemetery one morning, the front hood popped open completely obstructing my vision. At the time, I was going 65 MPH in the center lane of a heavily congested Garden State Parkway. Somehow I was able to pull over. The hood latch had not properly engaged.

In another instance, a tie rod, used for steering, became separated from my right front wheel on the Garden State Parkway. Although I continued to drive, I sensed something was not right. Little did I know that I was steering with one wheel.

Starting to Smoke

Cigarette Vending Machine

During trips to the shore, I bought cigarettes from vending machines. Smoking and driving went well together. I started smoking Winston's and Salem's. Twenty years later I failed the pulmonary function and aortic blood saturation tests ordered by my Navy flight surgeon. Fearing the doctor would "ground" me, I quit "cold turkey." I have not smoked since.

A Fun-filled Summer

Seaside Heights, New Jersey 1950s

Over the summer, I made frequent trips to the shore to places like Asbury Park, Spring Lake, Point Pleasant, Seaside Heights and Atlantic City. I saw the movie, *Boy on a Dolphin* at the drive-in near Seaside Heights and the stage show, *Damn Yankees* on the boardwalk in Atlantic City.

Franklin Quarry, Franklin, New Jersey

I drove to mountain recreation areas such as Holiday Lake, Budd Lake and Franklin Quarry. The quarry was in an isolated mining area in the mountains of Sussex County, New Jersey. Franklin is known as the fluorescent mineral capital of the world. Fluorescent minerals glow in a variety of colors under ultraviolet light. I wasn't looking for fluorescent minerals, but for a place to dive into its pristine water. The center of the quarry was about 180 feet deep.

Diving Gear similar to mine

I strapped on the oxygen tank, mask and goggles I rented at the entrance and started to descend along the side. I soon realized the danger of the increasing water pressure and decided I was not ready for this. Without supervision, diving was not a good idea.

The AM radio in the station wagon was always tuned into the Top 40 songs for the week. The songs could always be associated with a time and place, such as during a drive to the beach or on the jukebox at a diner. The singers I most remembered were The Platters, Johnny Mathis, The Diamonds, The Del-Vikings, The Everly Brothers, Patti Page, and Pat Boone. Although the summer of '57 was filled with fun, some events were catastrophic.

Driving Hazards

Returning from a fourth of July celebration, I was pulled over for running a red light at the intersection of Bloomfield Avenue and Grove Street in Montclair, New Jersey. I was issued my first traffic citation and was extremely worried about the consequences. I could see myself in traffic court being ordered to pay a huge fine. I did not tell anyone. After finding the courage to call the number on the back of the ticket, I learned that my fine was $7.00. Payment could be placed in the mail. I was relieved.

I frequently ignored the mechanical operation of the station wagon. On a return trip from the shore, the engine overheated. When I stopped at the service area I found that the wagon was not only low on water, but was low on oil as well. The service worker determined that the thermostat had also failed. Perhaps spinning the rear wheels in the sand in an attempt to leave the beach was a contributing factor. With the spinning, sand had reached the top of the rear axle. The wagon had to be jacked up and boards placed under the tires to free it from the sand. After this, I checked the oil and water each time I stopped for gas. In most instances, both were low.

On leaving a lake after swimming, I found I could not start the engine. I tried and tried, but stopped after fearing the battery was nearly dead. I was told that I likely had a vapor lock. I let the engine cool down for a while. "Voila!" It finally started. Vapor lock was often a problem in cars without fuel injection.

A Looming Disaster

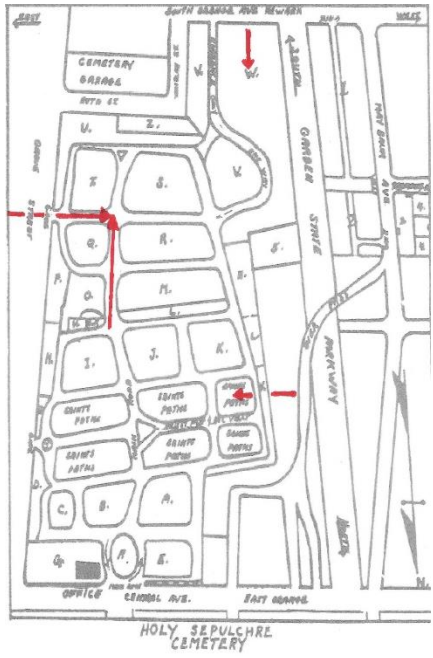
My job at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery continued to go smoothly until Friday, August 16th. After finishing lunch that day, two of my teenage coworkers and I thought it would be fun to take a ride in the wagon around the cemetery. They decided it would be even more fun to sit on the tailgate. I was driving south along the main road with the radio blaring Paul Anka's hit song "Diana." On my left was a large mausoleum. Suddenly another vehicle appeared from

behind the mausoleum heading west. We were both traveling at a relatively high speed and there were no stop signs in the cemetery. We were going to collide!

1951 Ford Station Wagon Part 2

Catastrophe in the Cemetery

Just before the collision, our brakes screeched…then a crumpling sound from my left front fender. I watched the hood rise above its normal level followed by a hiss from the radiator. I cried, "Oh no, what have I done?" As the radio continued to blast "ugh oh, ugh oh, ugh oh, oh please, Diana," through my rearview mirror I saw my two teenage passengers were no longer on the tailgate. *Where did they go?* They had landed in the street unharmed. An older co-worker, returning from lunch through a Grove Street entrance, was driving the other vehicle. His car was not damaged. The wagon was immobilized.



Collision site marked in red on left
Grandparents Napoleon and Rosangela Layare's burial plots are marked in red on top
Great granduncle Joseph Seymour's burial plot is marked in red on bottom

Overhead View of Accident Site with arrows marking point of impact in Red

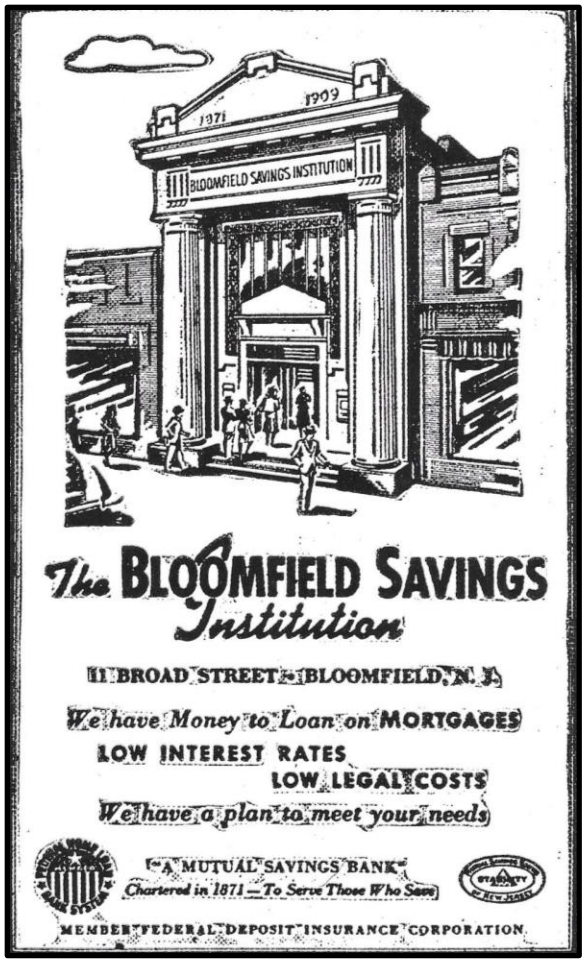
The Mausoleum obstructing our views is shown at the lower left.

Three dimensional View of the Accident Site. The size of the mausoleum is apparent.

Plymouth Suburban

The surviving vehicle looked like the one above.

Since we were inside the cemetery with no injuries, the police were not called. I was not looking forward to seeing Pop's reaction that evening. The wagon was not covered by collision insurance, and it was doubtful Pop would be able to help pay for the damage. Pop likely looked at me and said, "Now you've done it, you handle it." Nonetheless, I felt obligated to have the wagon repaired. A tow truck was called and it took the wagon to a local body shop.

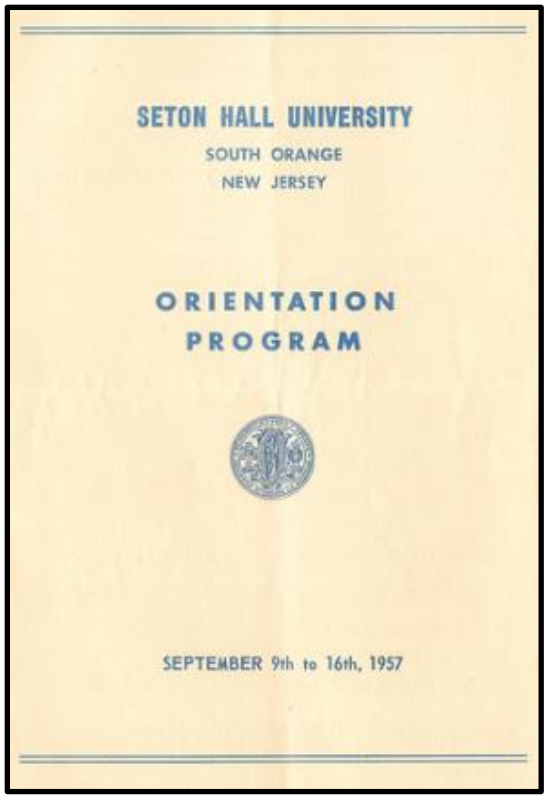

1871
1909
BLOOMFIELD SAVINGS INSTITUTION
The BLOOMFIELD SAVINGS Institution
11 BROAD STREET - BLOOMFIELD, N. J.
We have Money to Loan on MORTGAGES
LOW INTEREST RATES
LOW LEGAL COSTS
We have a plan to meet your needs
A MUTUAL SAVINGS BANK
Chartered in 1871 — To Serve Those Who Save
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Bloomfield Savings Bank

I expected the repair to require most of my $700 savings from the Bloomfield Savings Bank. About two weeks later, the car was ready to be picked up. My total bill was $357 (nearly $4,000 in 2024), well over half the amount paid for the car. Taking the bus to the savings bank to withdraw the money was difficult. With college on the way, I doubt if Pop would have approved withdrawals from my six years of savings. But, by increasing my hours at the print shop, I survived.

Although having an automobile accident inside a cemetery may seem comical to some, to me it was an awakening. I was just beginning to understand the costs involved in operating a car despite gas being only 25 cents a gallon.

I used the wagon to attend my college orientation in September. I was pleased with its outside appearance. Although the engine had survived the accident, it continued to be low on oil and water each time I stopped.


SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

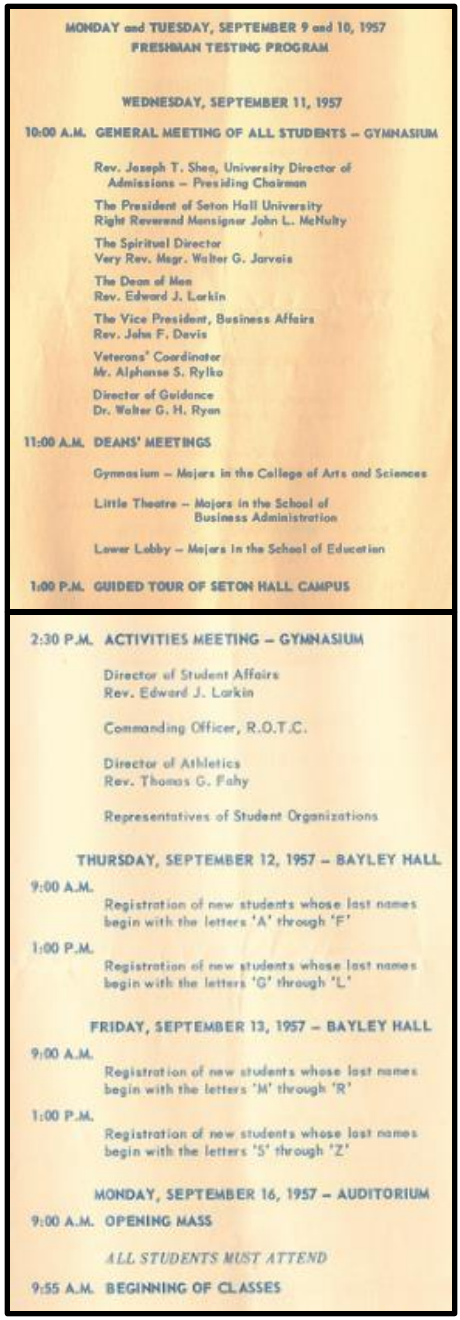
SOUTH ORANGE

NEW JERSEY

ORIENTATION

PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 9th to 16th, 1957



MONDAY and TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 and 10, 1957
FRESHMAN TESTING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1957

10:00 A.M. GENERAL MEETING OF ALL STUDENTS – GYMNASIUM

Rev. Joseph T. Shea, University Director of Admissions – Presiding Chairman

The President of Seton Hall University
Right Reverend Monsignor John L. McNulty

The Spiritual Director
Very Rev. Msgr. Walter G. Jarvais

The Dean of Men
Rev. Edward J. Larkin

The Vice President, Business Affairs
Rev. John F. Davis

Veterans' Coordinator
Mr. Alphonse S. Rylko

Director of Guidance
Dr. Walter G. H. Ryan

11:00 A.M. DEANS' MEETINGS

Gymnasium – Majors in the College of Arts and Sciences

Little Theatre – Majors in the School of Business Administration

Lower Lobby – Majors in the School of Education

1:00 P.M. GUIDED TOUR OF SETON HALL CAMPUS

2:30 P.M. ACTIVITIES MEETING – GYMNASIUM

Director of Student Affairs
Rev. Edward J. Larkin

Commanding Officer, R.O.T.C.

Director of Athletics
Rev. Thomas G. Fahy

Representatives of Student Organizations

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1957 – BAYLEY HALL

9:00 A.M.
Registration of new students whose last names begin with the letters 'A' through 'F'

1:00 P.M.
Registration of new students whose last names begin with the letters 'G' through 'L'

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1957 – BAYLEY HALL

9:00 A.M.
Registration of new students whose last names begin with the letters 'M' through 'R'

1:00 P.M.
Registration of new students whose last names begin with the letters 'S' through 'Z'

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1957 – AUDITORIUM

9:00 A.M. OPENING MASS

ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND

9:55 A.M. BEGINNING OF CLASSES

Seton Hall Orientation Program 9-16 September 1957

After completing the orientation program shown above, I began my freshman year at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. Living off campus, I felt the wagon was essential for my daily commute to school and work.

Trip to Bucknell University

My high school buddy, Chuck Stevens, had started his freshman year at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Chuck lived on campus. In November, my steady girlfriend, Kay Leith, and I thought it would be fun to visit Chuck. We didn't tell anyone we were going. After all, "What's the big deal?"

Knowing it would be a long day, we departed home about 4:00 A.M. We drove west on U.S. Route 22 and crossed the Delaware River between Phillipsburg, New Jersey and Easton, Pennsylvania. Continuing on U.S. Route 22 to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area, we drove north on U.S. Routes 11 and 15 along the Susquehanna River to Lewisburg. We explored the campus with Chuck and drove around the Susquehanna Valley area. When we arrived home around midnight, our parents weren't very happy.

Engine Failure

Back at college the following week, I noticed the engine was becoming more difficult to start; and once started, it made very loud clanging noises. My inattention to maintaining the water and oil levels had taken its toll on the engine. I was advised the valves were warped and the block was cracked. The engine could not be repaired and needed to be replaced. No wonder the wagon was frequently overheating and leaving a trail of smoke. I had been adding at least a quart of oil and water to the radiator each time I stopped for gas.

Chuck often joked the exhaust from the wagon was so dense it turned on the "fog area"" warning signals along N.J. Route 3 from Clifton, New Jersey to midtown Manhattan. N.J. Route 3 traversed the New Jersey meadowlands, an area frequently subject to fog.

Bunky's - Still in Business

I drove the wagon to Bunky's Gulf Station on Bloomfield Avenue in Verona, New Jersey, near my home. Bunky had an excellent reputation for mechanical work, although he did not routinely replace engines. To find a replacement engine, I went to an auto salvage yard on Route 46. Walking through the mud, I came across a wrecked 1954 Ford sedan. The engine seemed to be unaffected; however, I had little assurance it would run. I was pleased it had overhead valves, an improvement over the old engine. Bunky agreed to pick up and install the engine in the wagon, but with no guarantees. The cost of the job was yet to be determined.

Life without a Car

Without a car I made adjustments to dates with my steady girlfriend, Kay. No more drive-in movies or late-night parking in secluded areas, so we took the bus. I rode to school with another Seton Hall student, Tom Reilly, who also lived in Verona. I stopped by Bunky's nearly every day to check his progress.

Replacement Engine

As promised, the wagon was ready about a month after Bunky started the replacement process. It ran exceptionally well. Through lessons learned, I was now well schooled on the importance of proper maintenance. The overall cost was well over $100 ($1,100 in 2024).

Ford V8 engine with overhead valves

In the spring of 1958, I was thrilled to be back on the road again! Although there would be many station wagon related events to follow, none could top the catastrophes of 1957. *How often do drivers have collisions inside cemeteries?*

Wild Ride Through the Big City

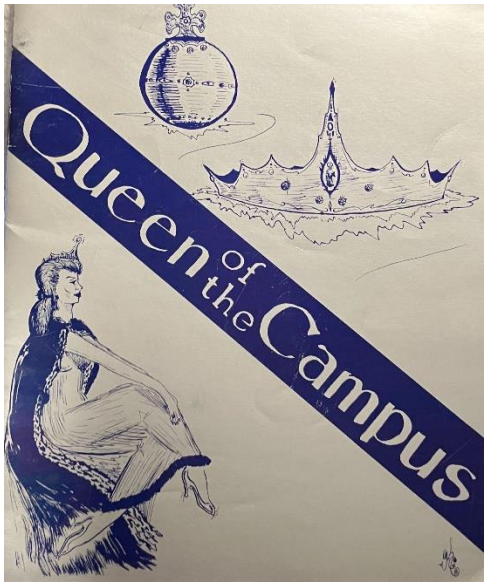
I was now 18 years old. Many of my friends wanted to drive to New York City, where 18 was the legal drinking age. It was 21 in New Jersey. The thought of driving in New York traffic was overwhelming. I rarely drove into the city myself.

Isetta Microcar

On one trip, I joined two friends and squeezed into the back of their Italian-designed three-wheel, one-cylinder Isetta microcar, similar to the one above. We entered through a single front door with a swivel type steering column. Talk about being up close and personal on a high risk venture. *Glad we didn't stop for drinks.*

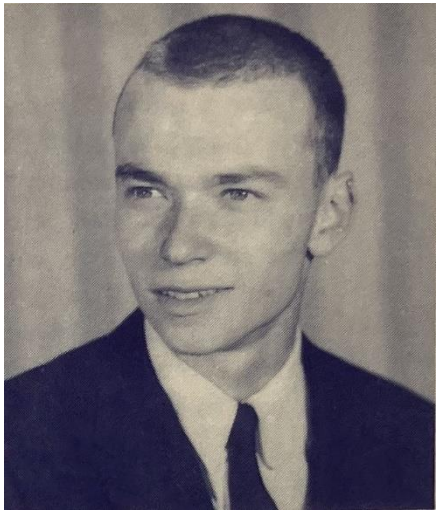
Uncommon Dating

Most of the girls I met at college mixer dances lived far out of town. Having the station wagon made it easier for me to accommodate them. I dated student nurses, Nora Noonan, in the Bronx, New York and Shirley Sapala, in Raritan, New Jersey, a 100 mile round-trip. I eventually broke up with both of them in favor of a local girl. Maureen Deering lived in Orange, New Jersey. My first and only date with Maureen was a non-starter. When I arrived at her home, Maureen was not there. I enjoyed spending time with her parents, but never did see Maureen. I think she already had a date.



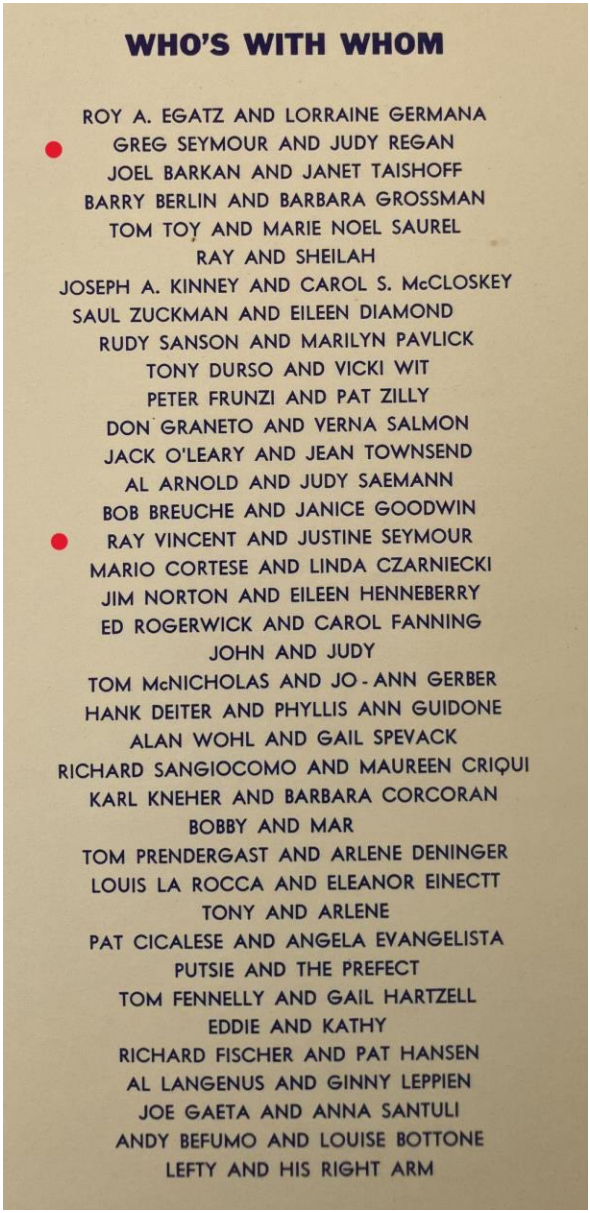
Queen of the Campus Dance - 1959

The annual Queen of the Campus Dance was sponsored by the Seton Hall University newspaper, *The Setonian.*



Greg Seymour, Publicity Chairman

Since I served on the newspaper staff, I promoted the 1959 event as Publicity Chairman. It was quite an accomplishment when I was able to get my sister, Tina, and her boyfriend, Ray Vincent, to attend.



WHO'S WITH WHOM

ROY A. EGATZ AND LORRAINE GERMANA
GREG SEYMOUR AND JUDY REGAN
JOEL BARKAN AND JANET TAISHOFF
BARRY BERLIN AND BARBARA GROSSMAN
TOM TOY AND MARIE NOEL SAUREL
RAY AND SHEILAH
JOSEPH A. KINNEY AND CAROL S. McCLOSKEY
SAUL ZUCKMAN AND EILEEN DIAMOND
RUDY SANSON AND MARILYN PAVLICK
TONY DURSO AND VICKI WIT
PETER FRUNZI AND PAT ZILLY
DON GRANETO AND VERNA SALMON
JACK O'LEARY AND JEAN TOWNSEND
AL ARNOLD AND JUDY SAEMANN
BOB BREUCHE AND JANICE GOODWIN
RAY VINCENT AND JUSTINE SEYMOUR
MARIO CORTESE AND LINDA CZARNIECKI
JIM NORTON AND EILEEN HENNEBERRY
ED ROGERWICK AND CAROL FANNING
JOHN AND JUDY
TOM McNICHOLAS AND JO-ANN GERBER
HANK DEITER AND PHYLLIS ANN GUIDONE
ALAN WOHL AND GAIL SPEVACK
RICHARD SANGIOCOMO AND MAUREEN CRIQUI
KARL KNEHER AND BARBARA CORCORAN
BOBBY AND MAR
TOM PRENDERGAST AND ARLENE DENINGER
LOUIS LA ROCCA AND ELEANOR EINECTT
TONY AND ARLENE
PAT CICALESE AND ANGELA EVANGELISTA
PUTSIE AND THE PREFECT
TOM FENNELLY AND GAIL HARTZELL
EDDIE AND KATHY
RICHARD FISCHER AND PAT HANSEN
AL LANGENUS AND GINNY LEPPIEN
JOE GAETA AND ANNA SANTULI
ANDY BEFUMO AND LOUISE BOTTONE
LEFTY AND HIS RIGHT ARM

Who's With Whom

Oddly, I have no recollection of Judy Regan, who was listed in Who's with Whom as my date.

Tina and Ray - 1959

Tina and Ray married in 1961 and had seven children.

Popping the Clutch

Our home at 31 Kenwood Avenue in Verona, was located on a hill. After having trouble starting the station wagon on cold mornings, I decided it was better to park on the hill. In the event the

wagon didn't start normally, I could always "jump start" it by turning on the ignition, releasing the brake, placing the shift in second gear with the clutch pedal depressed. Once the wagon was rolling downhill, I would "pop" the clutch pedal and the engine started. This became routine.

Driveway at 31 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey with telephone pole on left

My decision to park on the hill was brought about by an unforeseen incident in the driveway.

One cold morning, after an unsuccessful attempt at starting the wagon, I decided to push it back to the street to attempt a "jump start." I was in a hurry and was pushing by myself with one hand on the steering wheel and the other on the rear frame of the driver's side door. The door was wide open. As the wagon reached the street, the door wrenched against a telephone pole bringing the car to a stop and splintering the wood near the door hinge.

When free of the telephone pole, the door could not be closed and had to be tied to the frame. The open window could not be rolled up and had to be covered with a piece of canvas. It would be several months before I was able to get the door and window

repaired. In the meantime, I got into the wagon through the passenger side door followed by my passengers. This made for very cold and wet trips and some not so cozy dates.

Driving On Hills

Driving on hills in the snow

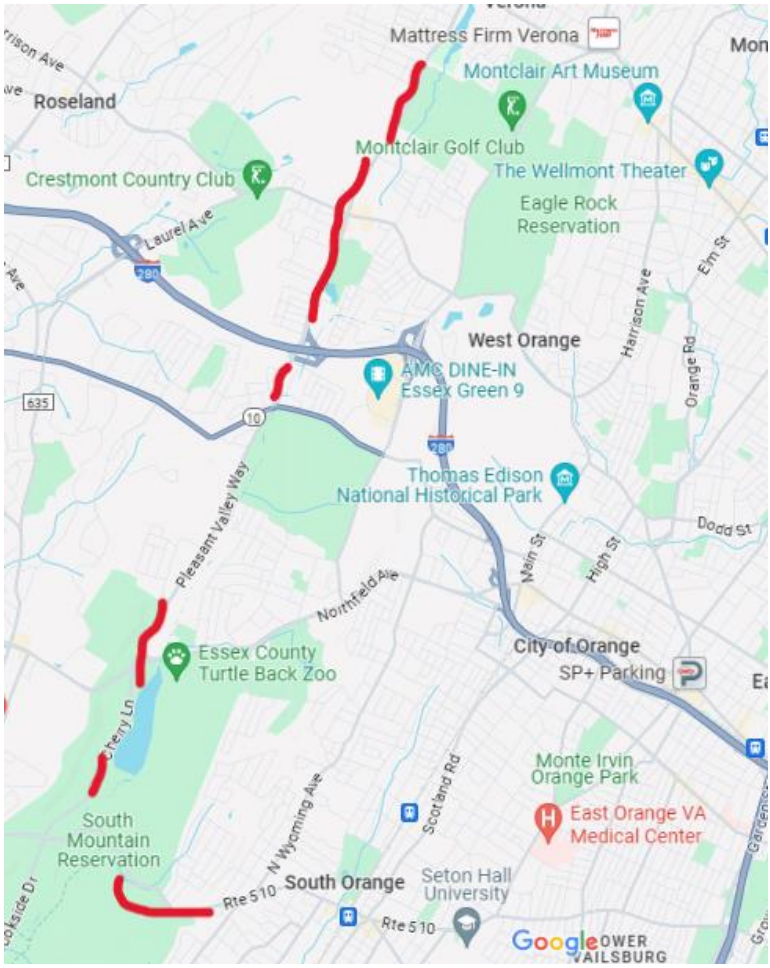
Bloomfield Avenue is the main thoroughfare connecting Bloomfield and Verona. The road traversed the First Watchung Mountain. The grades were steep. Traffic lights always seemed to be placed at intersections in the areas of the steepest grades. Holding the wagon in position on the hill with the clutch was often a challenge, particularly during rush hour and in icy weather.

Driving in snow always presented its difficulties. There were times when I found myself spinning out of control and was forced to abandon the wagon at the bottom of a hill. I remember one particularly novel event was when I slid into the side of a building. I was leaving work during a snowstorm, attempting to maneuver the wagon out of a parking spot. There was a curb, but no sidewalk. With little wriggle room, I ended up sliding into the building. After applying some salt, I was able to pull out.

I even had some mishaps on the hill in good weather. While going downhill one evening, I bumped the car in front of me at a stop light. I wanted to believe there was no damage and stayed in the wagon. As I continued to drive, I noticed the other car was following me. I decided to stop and the other car pulled up behind. I was relieved! There was no damage except for a bent chrome bumper guard on the wagon. I found a replacement chrome guard at an auto parts store in Verona.

Pal's Fairway and Cabin in 1950s

Mount Prospect Avenue ran parallel to the top of the mountain, intersecting Eagle Rock Avenue at Pal's Cabin and the golf driving range pictured above. During college, I often drove this way between my home in Verona and Seton Hall's main campus on South Orange Avenue. While driving uphill one afternoon in a blinding rain, my windshield wipers stopped. It was then I learned the wipers were driven by vacuum air from the engine. A combined leaky air hose and low engine compression contributed to this scary event. Fortunately, I did not run into anyone.



Mountain route between Verona and Seton Hall marked in red

The mountain came to my aid in another scary situation. Leaving school one afternoon I turned onto South Orange Avenue. As the wagon sputtered I looked at my fuel and knew I was about to run out of gas. I moved to the right lane and just kept on rolling into the Village of South Orange where there was a gas station awaiting my arrival. I was home free.

I often waited until a tire was bald or went flat before I decided on a replacement. To save money, I would look for a retread. When changing tires, I placed the tire jack at a convenient location under

the bumper. The more I lifted the wagon the more it favored one side or the other. While changing the right rear tire one evening, the jack tilted and the wagon fell to the pavement. I received a gash in my right index finger. Ouch! This event was long remembered when the end of my finger went numb during cold weather. The wagon survived, but my finger didn't.

On one occasion I decided to splurge on a tire. I bought the very expensive Atlas brand from a local Esso station. I paid $25. I placed the tire on the tailgate for use as a spare. When glossed with a protectant, it enhanced the appearance of the back of the wagon. I only used the spare as needed on a temporary basis.

When I had the brake shoes replaced, I also had the wheels balanced and aligned. I noted the wagon pulled to one side. I told the mechanic and he decided to ride with me on a test run on the Garden State Parkway. His solution to the problem was to hold down on the brake pedal to even the wear on the shoes. This rather unorthodox procedure seemed to solve the problem. Looking back,

the mechanic likely thought I was ignorant enough to buy into his solution.

During the summers of the late ‘50s, I drove the wagon to places I had visited in earlier years. My sister Tina and I traveled to Schenectady and Buffalo on the New York State Thruway. Like the Garden State Parkway, the Thruway was recently completed. It was a thrill having a car with us while renewing acquaintances with the Higgins family. Grandma Seymour accompanied us on one trip to Schenectady to visit her sister-in-law Elizabeth (Lea) Seymour.

I couldn’t pass on the opportunity to make return trips to Montauk Point, Long Island, New York, where the family had vacationed during the summer of 1955 and 1956. On one occasion, Chuck Stevens, went along. On another occasion, college classmate, Ken Johnston, joined me.

The Sunrise Highway

Most of the drive to Montauk was along the 120-mile long New York State Route 27, a heavily traveled two lane highway. Passing other vehicles was nearly impossible except in towns where the road widened. When Chuck and I drove to Montauk, we decided to challenge a truck driver to a race. Neither of us could hold the lead for long. However, sooner or later one vehicle had to stop. It was the truck. The driver had pulled off to the side of the road to "take a leak."

The Drive to Naval Air Station (NAS) Lakehurst via The Jersey Shore

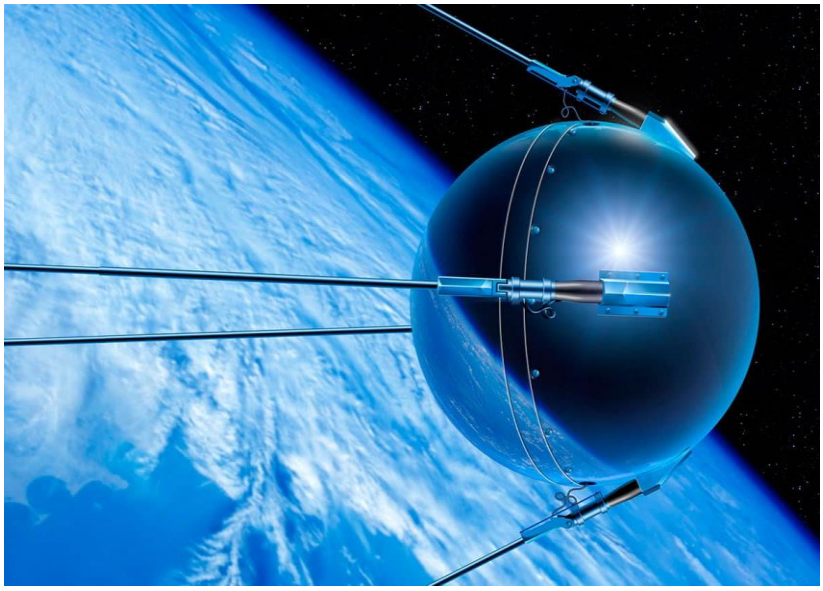
During the summer of 1960, I had an appointment to take the Aviation Officer Candidate (AOC) written tests and flight physical at Naval Air Station (NAS) Lakehurst, New Jersey. The written tests were the Aviation Qualification Test and Flight Aptitude Rating. Like most Navy tests they were mainly multiple choice, also known as multiple guess.

Before going to Lakehurst, I drove the wagon to the Jersey Shore for a night of fun on the boardwalk. As I drove to Lakehurst the next morning, I was concerned about the effects of a night out at the shore. I was exhilarated when I was informed I had passed both

physical and written exams! All that remained was a trip to my dentist to have any required work completed at my own expense.

On 24 June 1961, I left to join the Navy at NAS Pensacola, Florida. As I left home, I saw the wagon for the final time, parked on the hill leaving enough memories to last a lifetime.

Memoir of My Life in the Space Program 1957-2003



1957 Sputnik 1

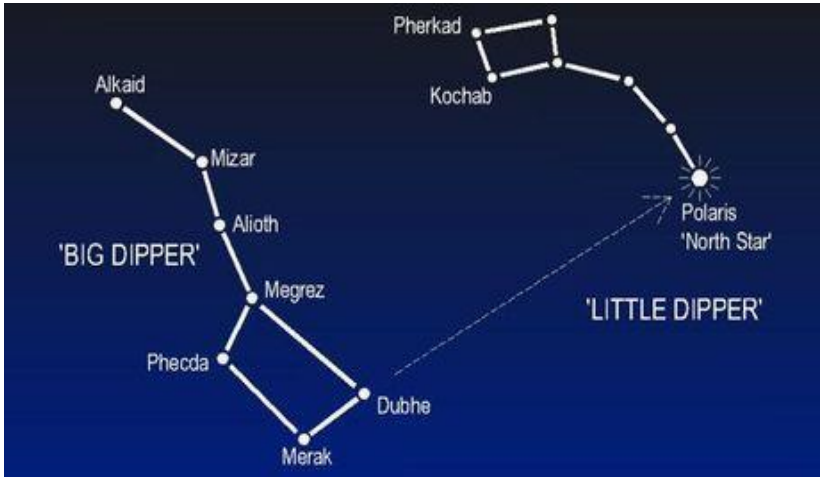
A Wake-Up Call

As I was driving my 1951 Ford station wagon to college on the morning of October 4, 1957, the news came over the radio reporting the launch of Sputnik 1. As with many others at the time, I realized there was a space race and the Russians were winning. Following the announcement, I intensified my desire to learn all I could about America's space program. On January 31, 1958, America launched its first satellite, Explorer 1.

Airborne Celestial Navigation

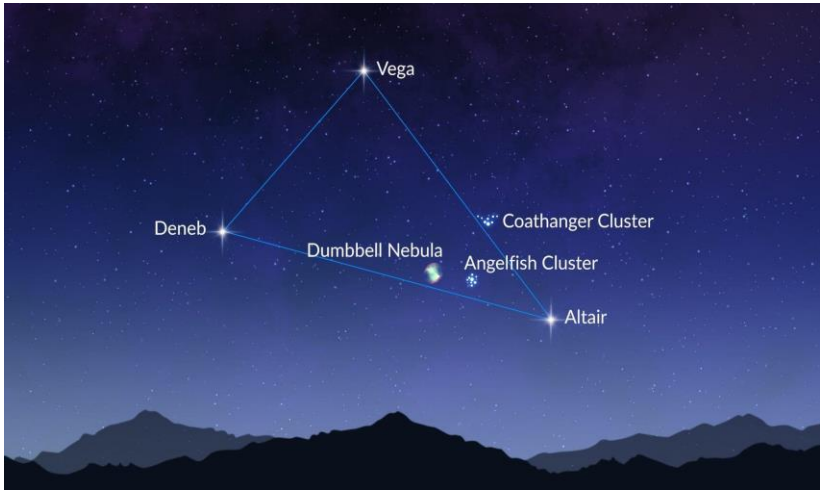
VT-29 Patch

Four years later, I was on my way to Pensacola, Florida to join the Naval Aviation community. Soon afterward, I was introduced to celestial navigation at VT-29 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi, Texas. Our classes were held inside a celestial trainer building, which included a planetarium. I was captivated by airborne celestial navigation and the positions of the 57 navigational stars. We were introduced to the North Star, Polaris, and the Dippers, Cassiopeia and others that appeared with each season.



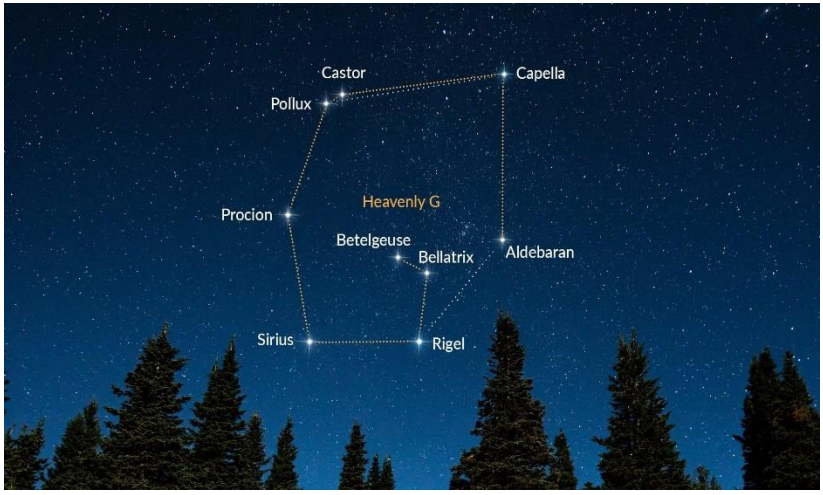
Polaris and The Dippers

Cassiopeia



Triangle - Summer

Square – Autumn



The Big Six - Winter

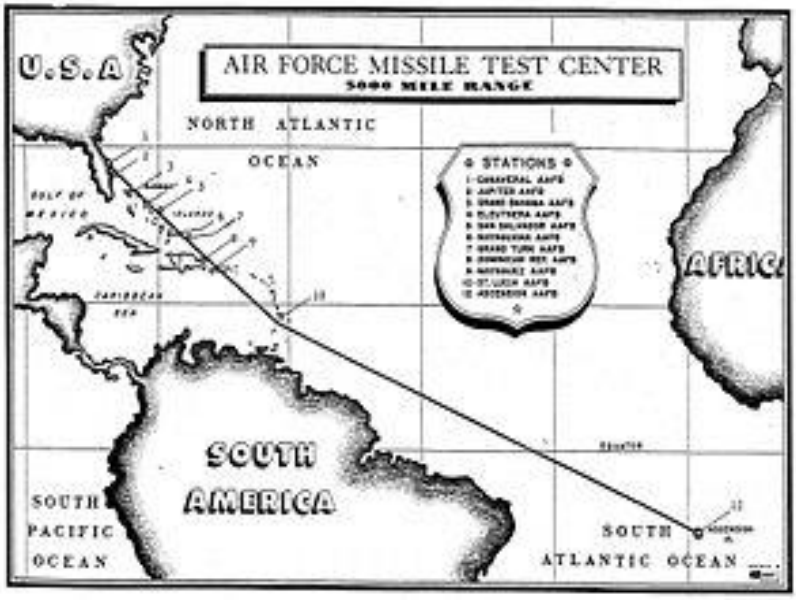
Many were assembled into recognizable features, such as the Triangle in summer, the Square of Pegasus in autumn and the Big Six in winter. Visible year-round in the northern sky, were the Dippers and Cassiopeia, affectionately known as the "Big Tit."

We had no inertial guidance or GPS system. Rather we used dead reckoning and celestial navigation techniques. My tools included a chronometer, dividers, plotter, E6-B handheld flight computer and a periscopic sextant. To prepare for a star sighting, azimuth and elevation data was obtained from the Air Almanac and HO-249. We practiced celestial navigation while flying in the Navy R4D (DC-3) and Air Force T-29 aircraft. The Navy is once again teaching celestial navigation as a backup in case GPS systems fail.

1962 A-3 Skywarrior Landing on Carrier

In 1962, when John Glenn made his historic earth orbiting spaceflight, I was assigned as a Bombardier Navigator on the A-3 Skywarrior aircraft. Although this was a state of the art aircraft, we still carried a sextant for celestial navigation. We never used it. My squadron was based aboard the USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) in the Pacific. Following this assignment, I returned to Pensacola qualifying as a Naval Aviator in 1965.

Apollo Saturn Capsule Recovery

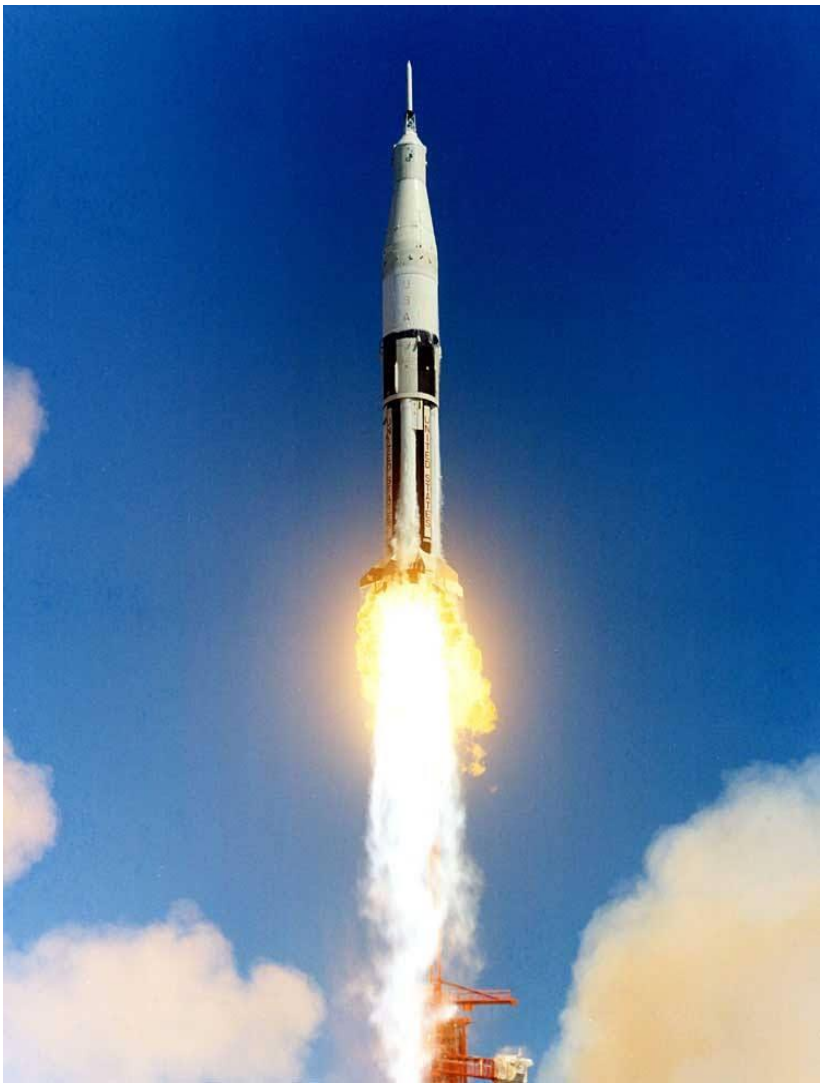


1966 Air Force Missile Test Range

My first hands-on role in our space program was the recovery of the capsule from the first Apollo Saturn (AS-201) suborbital flight near Ascension Island in the South Atlantic in early 1966.

1966 Recife, Brazil to Ascension Island in Formation

Our squadron dispatched three P-3 Orion patrol planes from Jacksonville to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to Piarco, Trinidad, to Recife, Brazil, to Ascension. After leaving Recife, we flew 1,500 miles in a straight line along eight degrees South latitude to the radio beacon on Ascension Island, identified by “Wide Awake.”



Apollo Saturn (AS-201) Suborbital Flight Test

After living on the barren landscape of Ascension Island for two days, the Cape notified us the capsule was on its way downrange. Splashdown would occur in about 30 minutes.

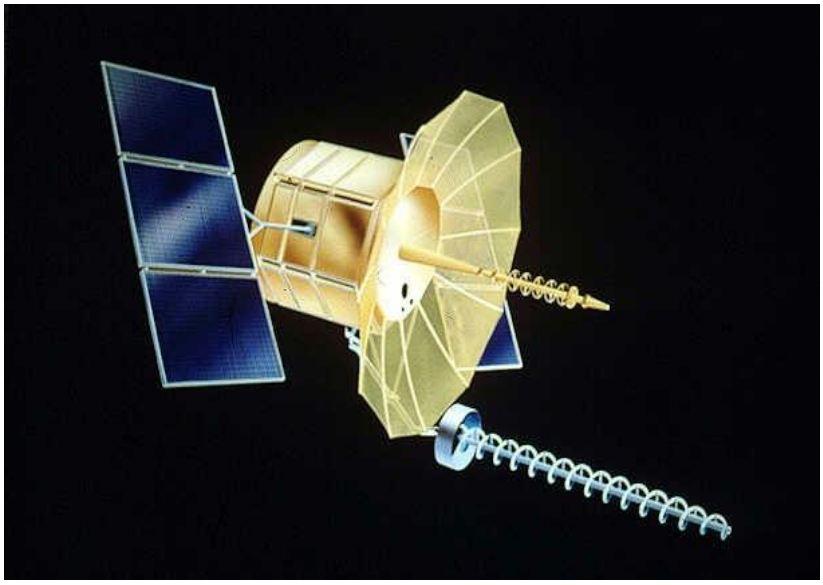
1966 Capsule Recovery

We launched our aircraft and turned on a search and rescue and homing device called SARAH. Soon after, we located the capsule and coordinated its recovery by the aircraft carrier USS Boxer (CV-21).

Satellite Communications

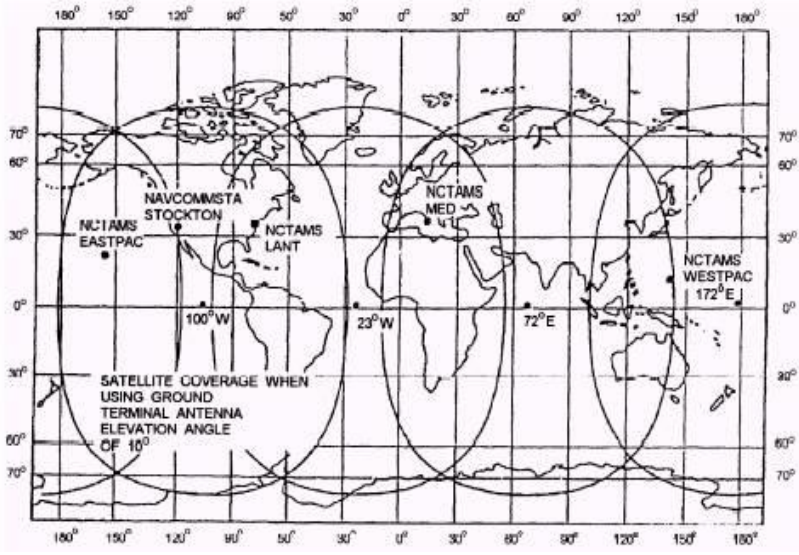
1968 P-3 Orion Interior facing Flight Station

During the late 60s, I was assigned as the Communications Officer for P-3 operations in the Atlantic. High frequency communications with aircraft over long distances were unreliable and unencrypted. Flying over water thousands of miles from base, missions were often out of touch for hours. I was driven to explore the application of emerging satellite communications systems to the P-3 aircraft.



1978 FLTSATCOM Satellite

In 1978, the Navy started launching communications satellites into geosynchronous orbit to form the Fleet Satellite Communication System (FLTSATCOM) constellation.



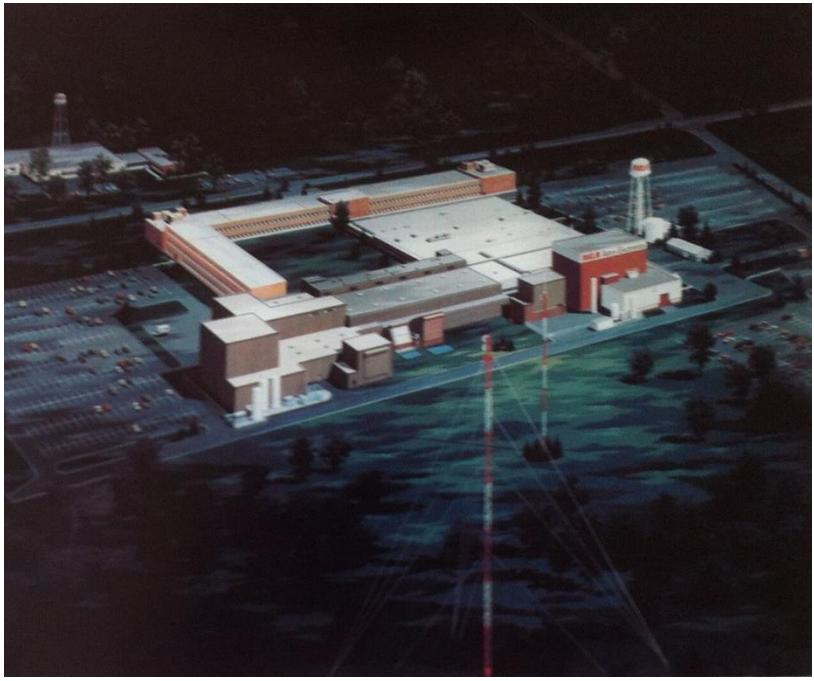
1980 FLTSATCOM Coverage

By 1980, FLTSATCOM provided worldwide communications between Naval ships, submarines and aircraft.

1970 Professional Development Program Assignment

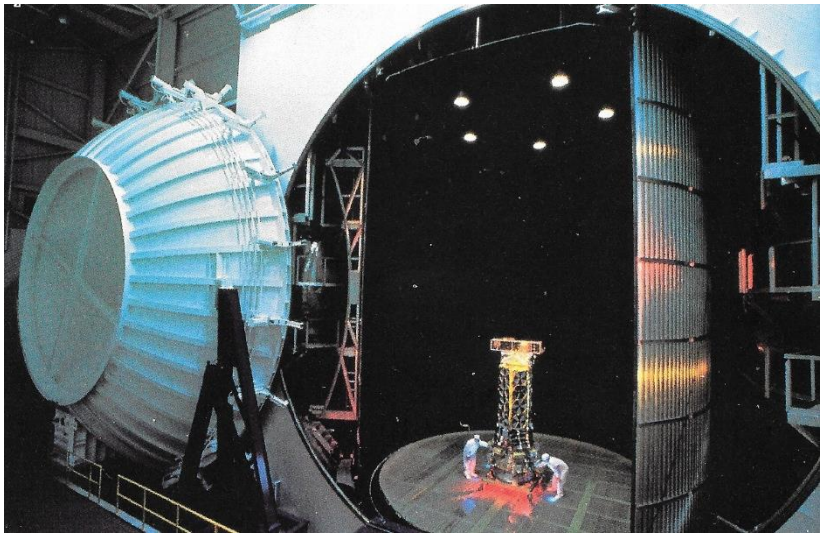
In 1970, I applied to the Navy's Professional Development Program to attain a deeper knowledge of satellite communications. I was selected for a one year assignment at RCA Astro Electronics near Princeton, New Jersey

RCA had already established itself as a leader in satellite communications. In 1958, Astro built the equipment for Project SCORE, (Signal Communications by Orbiting Relay Equipment), the world's first purpose-built communications satellite. SCORE broadcasted President Eisenhower's Christmas message to the world that year through an on-board tape recorder via shortwave radio. It was the first broadcast of a human voice from space. SCORE, as a geopolitical strategy, placed the United States at an even technological par in a highly functional response to the Soviet Union's Sputnik 1 and Sputnik 2 satellites.



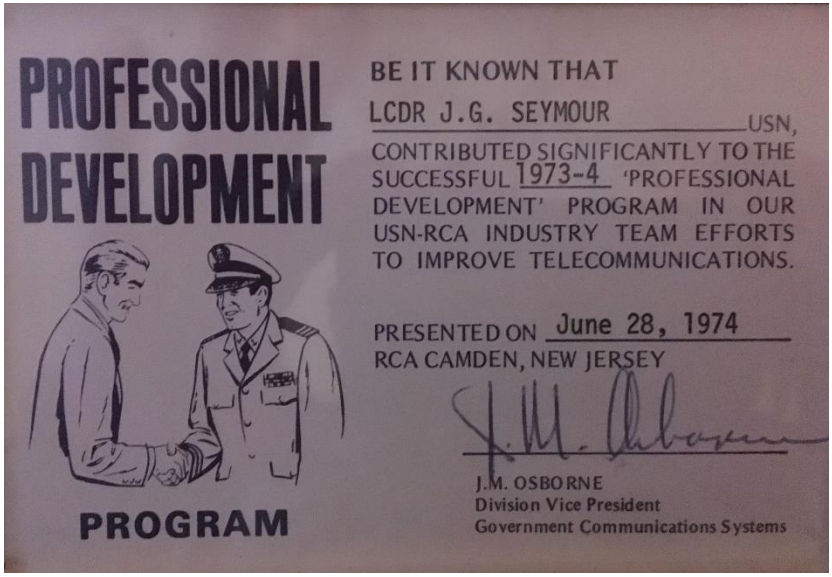
RCA Astro Plant, East Windsor, New Jersey

The plant was located in the countryside in the township of East Windsor, New Jersey.



Thermal Vacuum Test Chamber

At the time, Astro had the largest thermal vacuum test chamber in the free world, at 60 feet in diameter.


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM
BE IT KNOWN THAT
LCDR J.G. SEYMOUR USN,
CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL 1973-4 'PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT' PROGRAM IN OUR USN-RCA INDUSTRY TEAM EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS.
PRESENTED ON June 28, 1974
RCA CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY
J.M. OSBORNE
Division Vice President
Government Communications Systems

1973 Professional Development Program Memento

National Reconnaissance Office

1975 National Reconnaissance Office

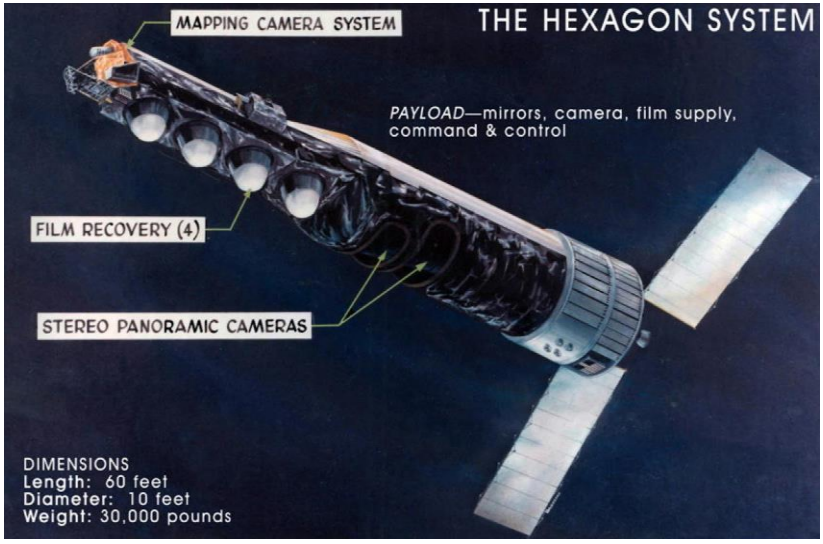
National Reconnaissance Office Staff in Pentagon Courtyard

1977

(I'm below the red dot on right)

During the mid-70s, I was assigned to the National Reconnaissance Office at the Pentagon reporting to the Undersecretary of the Air Force. At the time, the operation was hidden from the public and the existence of the organization was not acknowledged by the Government. It operated in "the black world," made up of Air Force Program A, Central Intelligence Agency Program B and Navy Program C, with many hidden compartments.

I wonder if today's Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon observations are inside a hidden compartment? Are these discs, triangular and cylindrical shaped objects operating in a space-time warp? How do they instantly disappear or change direction while moving at hypersonic speeds with no propulsion or heat signature? How do they travel through different media, flying effortlessly underwater after operating in a vacuum? It seems this technology is generations ahead of anything we know, or is it?



1975 Hexagon System with Piggyback Payload

Now back to the reality of my assignment. Hexagon, also known as "Big Bird" or KH-9, was a massive photographic satellite with film cameras and tape recorders, and a piggyback payload. The space shuttle cargo bay was built to accommodate its length. It was

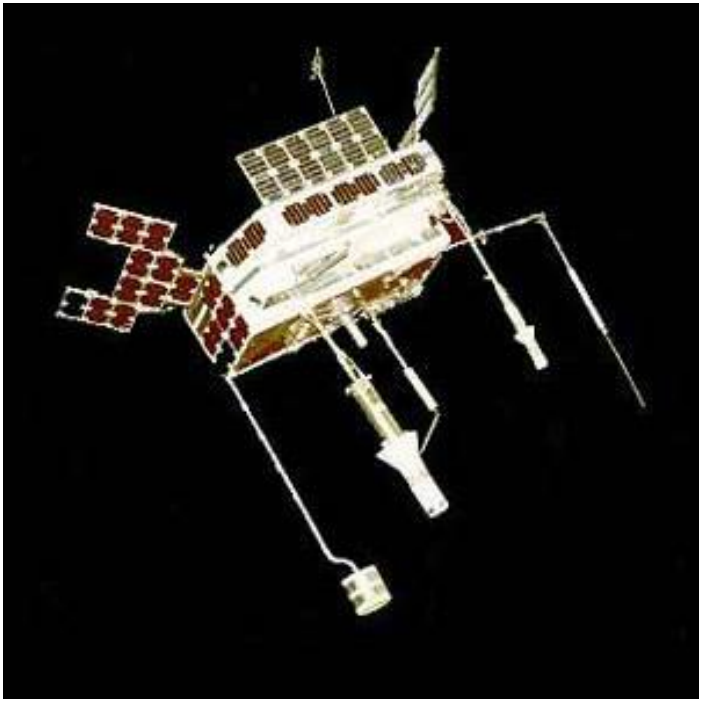
launched into polar (north-south) orbit from Vandenberg AFB, California. The exposed film was dropped in buckets near Hawaii. Each bucket was retrieved in mid-air by C-130 aircraft. The piggyback payload at the front of Hexagon was released to operate independently as a small satellite in a separate orbit. The Hexagon program ended in 1986, following the introduction of the KH-11 satellite with its digital imaging and direct downlink capabilities.

1975 Titan IIIC Launch

Hexagon launching from Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB), California on a Titan IIIC rocket. When the U.S. Space Force was established in December 2019, bases supporting the space mission were renamed Space Force Bases (SFBs). The Air Force Satellite Control Network (AFSCN) was renamed the Satellite Control Network (SCN),

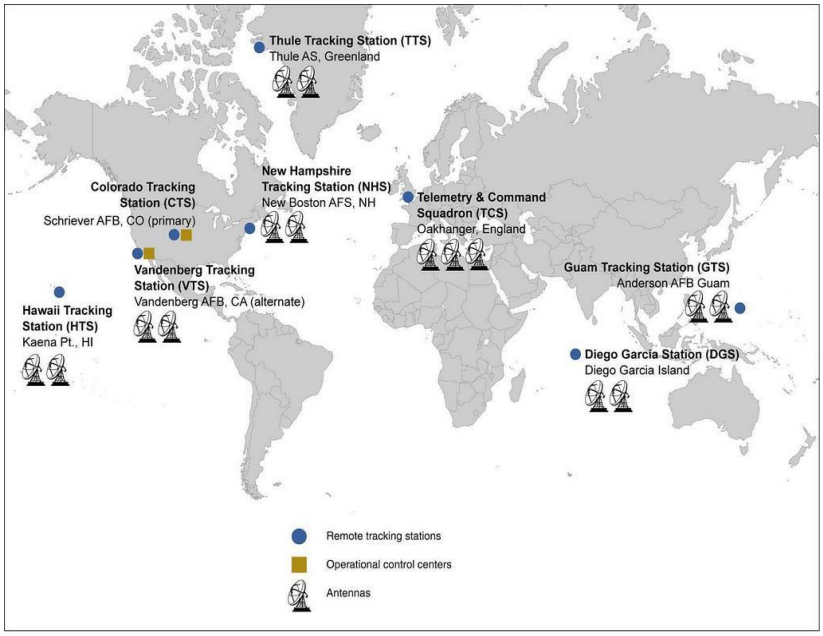
Photo Bucket Retrieval

The above photo shows a C-130 retrieving a photo bucket from the Hexagon satellite near Hawaii. After retrieval, the bucket was flown to the Air Force Special Projects Production Facility at Westover AFB, Massachusetts.



1975 Electronic Monitoring Satellite

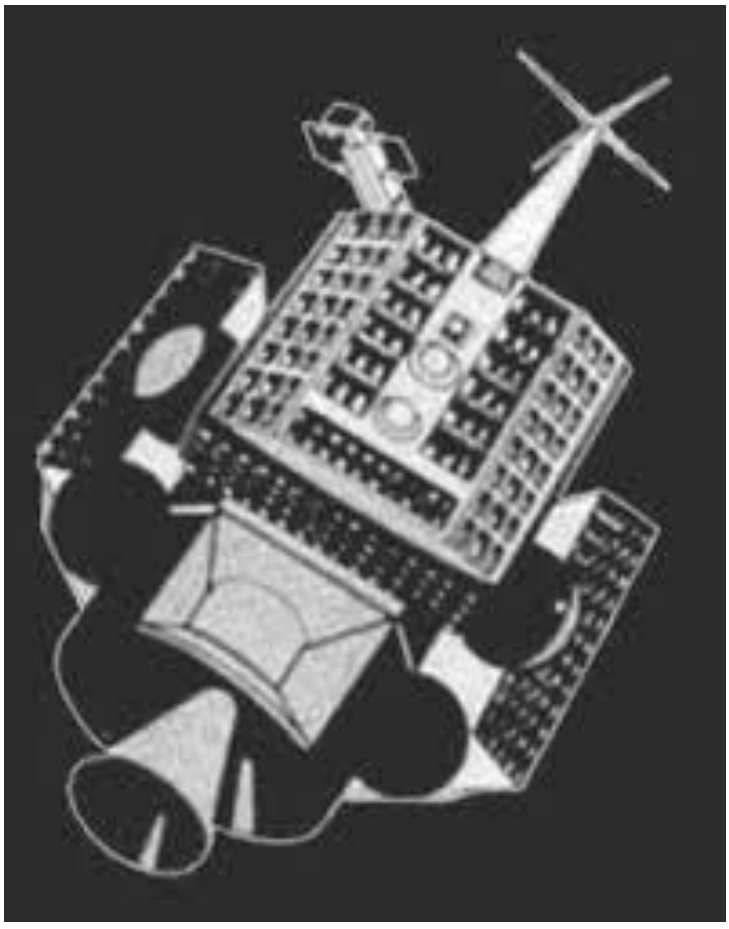
I was assigned to oversee the development and operation of the piggybacked satellites which gathered electronic intelligence. Data was acquired by a sharp-focus radar beam which rotated with the satellite. The satellites flew in polar (north-south) orbits, revisiting the same location every 12 hours. They were named after sex symbols of the day, Ursula, Raquel and Farrah.



Source: GAO analysis of DOD data; Map Resources (map); ArtExplosion (image).

1975 Air Force Satellite Control Network

Operating instructions were uploaded to the piggyback satellites by the Air Force Satellite Control Network (AFSCN) shown above. The instructions prepared the satellites to collect data from specific signals of interest. After acquiring this data, it was directly downlinked or stored on a tape recorder. AFSCN stations were in New Boston, New Hampshire; Thule, Greenland, Oakhanger, England; Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean; Anderson AFB, Guam; Kaena Point, Hawaii, Vandenberg AFB, California; Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Sunnyvale, Califnonia. Most no longer exist.



Three Parcae Satellites on Dispenser

I was also assigned to oversee the development and operation of the Parcae ocean surveillance satellites designed at the Naval Research Laboratory. As shown above, three satellites were launched on a dispenser. The orbit was optimized for collecting communications and electronic intelligence over ocean areas.

Deployed Parcae Satellite

Once on-orbit, the satellites were deployed from the dispenser and stabilized by gravity into a triangular formation.

1976 Parcae Launch

Parcae launching from Vandenberg AFB, California on an Atlas F rocket in April 1976.

Ocean Surveillance Satellite Ground Stations

Each satellite transmitted signals of interest to ground processing stations with dedicated antennas in real time. The three signals were triangulated to obtain a fix. Ground stations were located at Winter Harbor, Maine; Edzell, Scotland; Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean; Guam, Western Pacific; and Adak, Alaska. Blossom Point, Maryland, was a test facility. Only Blossom Point remains.

Space Industry

1985 Employment at RCA Astro

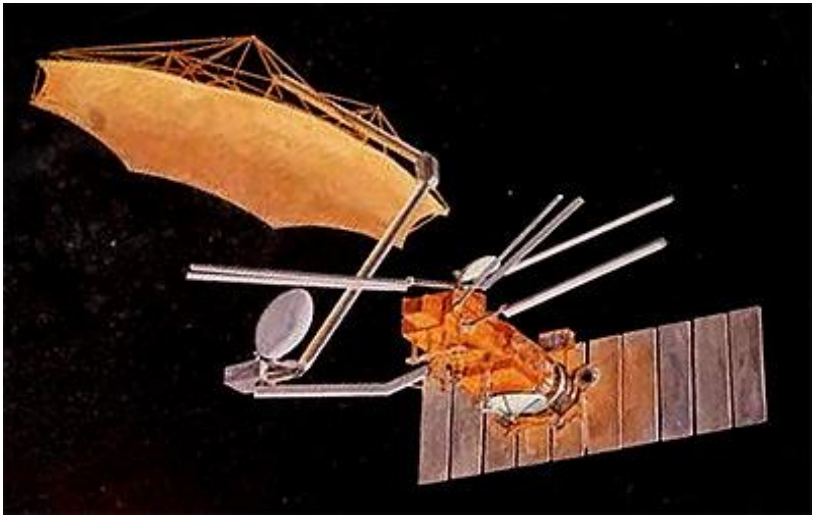
I returned to RCA in 1985 to expand their military satellite business. Funding was increasing for President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), known as Star Wars. RCA was sponsored to explore several advanced space concepts. Sponsors included the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Lieutenant General James Abrahamson, Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative

The government held a large number of industry briefings, where I got to know Lieutenant General James Abrahamson, director of the SDI. He was schooled in the latest technologies and could convince anyone SDI was viable.

1985 DMSP Block 5D Satellite

The Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP), was the centerpiece of Astro's military satellite business. Classified until 1973, its proven performance made it an excellent candidate to be reconfigured for additional missions.



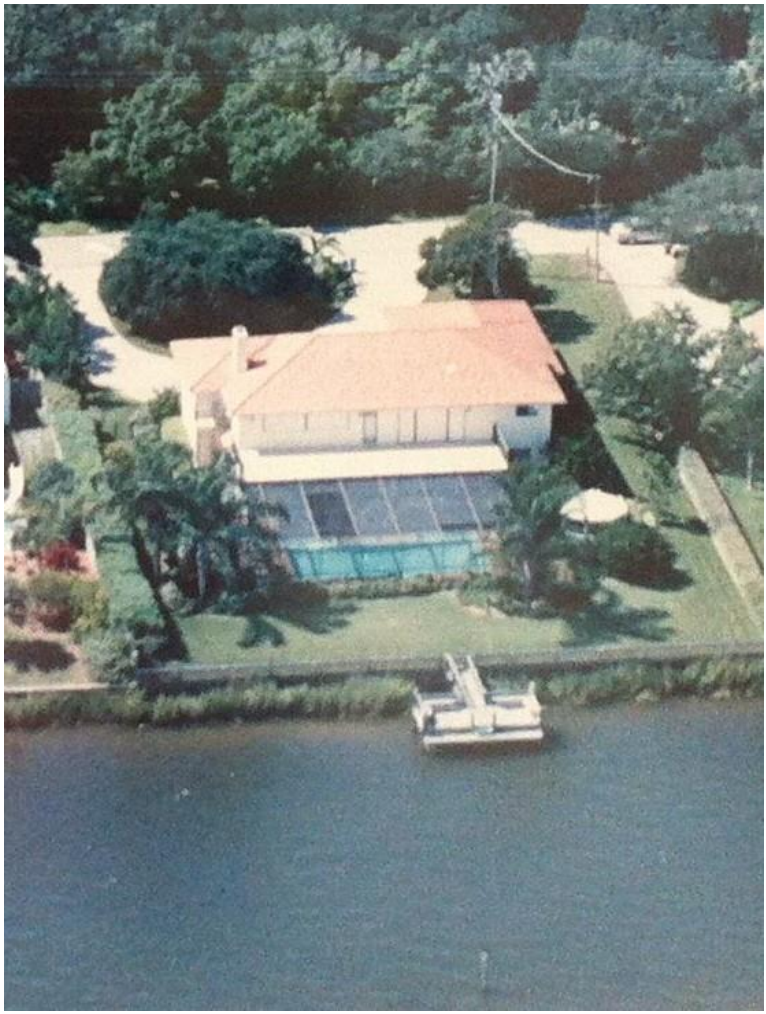
1986 N-ROSS Satellite

We proposed an adaptation of the DMSP to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command for the Navy Remote Ocean Sensing Satellite (N-ROSS) program to measure sea surface temperature, wave heights, water vapor, water liquid content, surface wind speed, and ice coverage. Instruments were supplied by NASA, the Air Force and the Navy. Interagency politics led to budgetary shortfalls and cancellation of the program.

1986 Bob Cenker RCA Payload Specialist

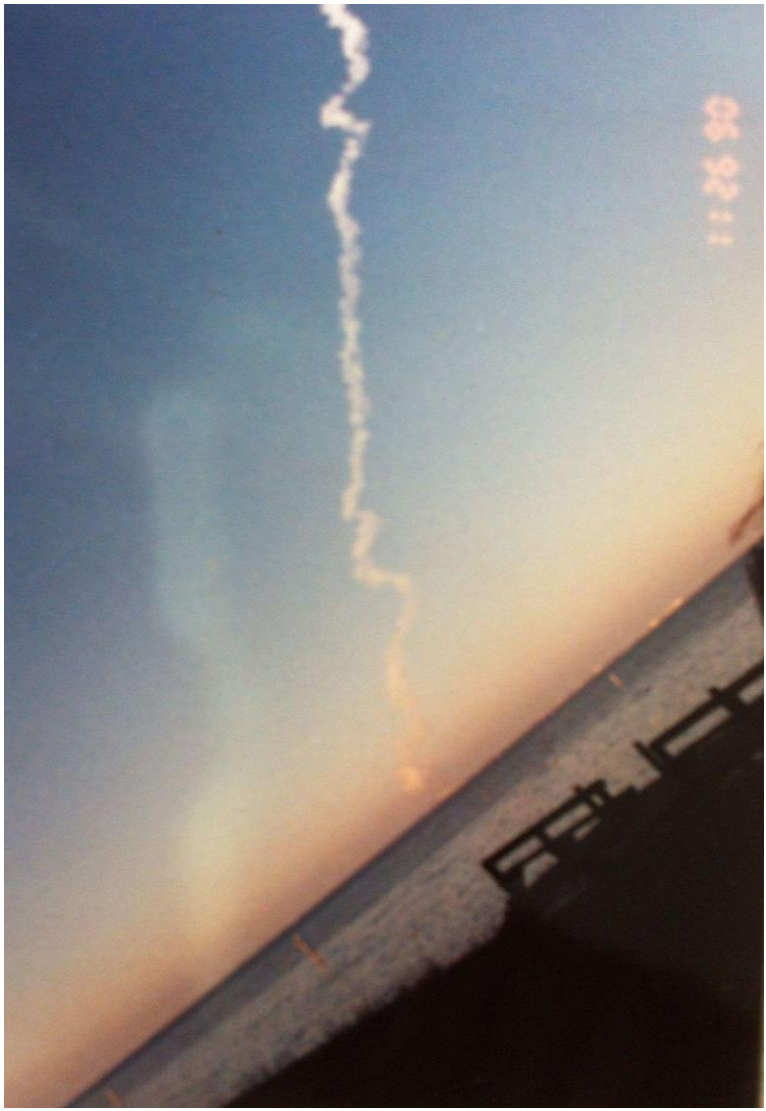
In January 1986, an RCA colleague, Payload Specialist, Bill Cenker, flew aboard the Shuttle Columbia. Bill operated an experimental infrared camera developed by RCA. He flew on the last mission before the Challenger accident.

Following the merger of GE and RCA, I moved to Florida and joined Harris Corporation in Melbourne. In the late 80s, I joined E-Systems in St. Petersburg focusing on space systems. The Astro facility in East Windsor became part of Martin Marietta in 1993, then Lockheed Martin in 1995. When Lockheed Martin consolidated its space assets in 1998, the facility was closed. All that remains are offices along the road where the main entrance was located.



7940 South Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, Florida

After moving to Florida, I purchased a home on Merritt Island's South Tropical Trail, where I lived until 2003. Located across from Patrick AFB on the Banana River, it was an ideal location for viewing launches from the Cape. We could see the vehicle assembly building and the lights on the launch pads at night. Our balcony was the best place in the neighborhood to watch the launches.



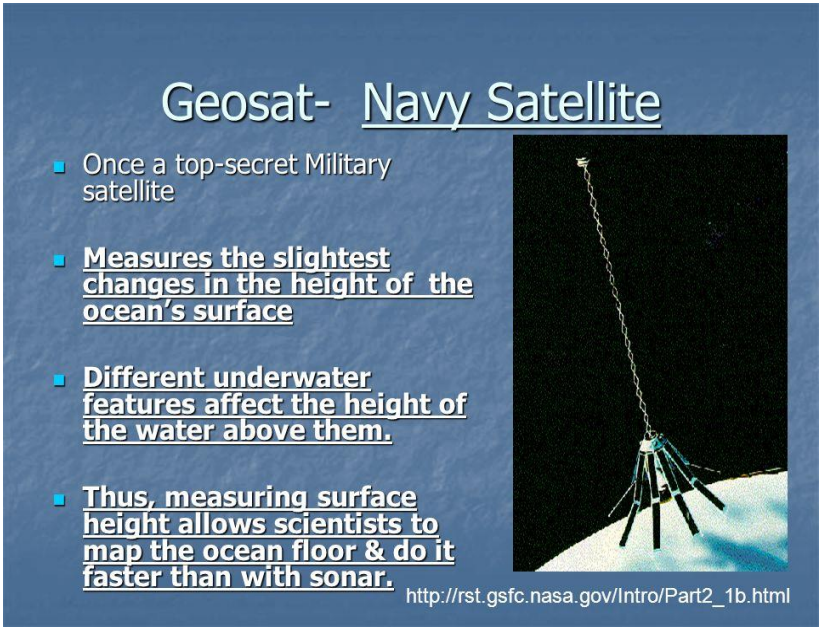
Shuttle Launch from Balcony

From our balcony, we took this picture of the launch of Shuttle Atlantis at 6:48 P.M. on November 15, 1990.

1989 Employment at E-Systems, St. Petersburg

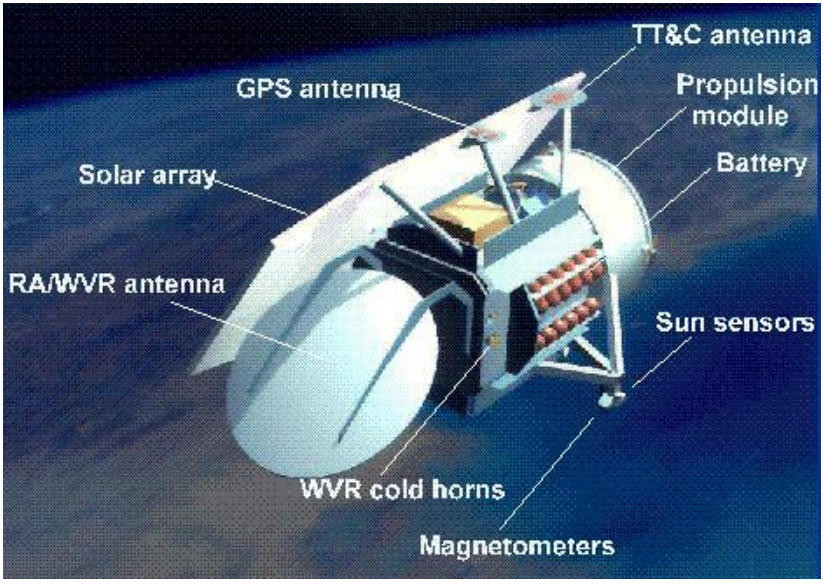
GORCA Space & Communications

One of my first projects at E-Systems was to support three companies that had been selected to study alternatives to the Milstar communications satellites. Two large businesses, GE Space Systems, Space Systems Loral and one small business, GORCA, were selected to challenge the Lockheed Martin team. E-Systems provided communications payload support to all three companies. Supporting GORCA was like revisiting RCA Astro. Made up of many former RCA employees, GORCA became known as Good Old RCA.


Geosat- Navy Satellite
Once a top-secret Military satellite
Measures the slightest changes in the height of the ocean's surface
Different underwater features affect the height of the water above them.
Thus, measuring surface height allows scientists to map the ocean floor & do it faster than with sonar.
http://rst.gsfc.nasa.gov/Intro/Part2_1b.html

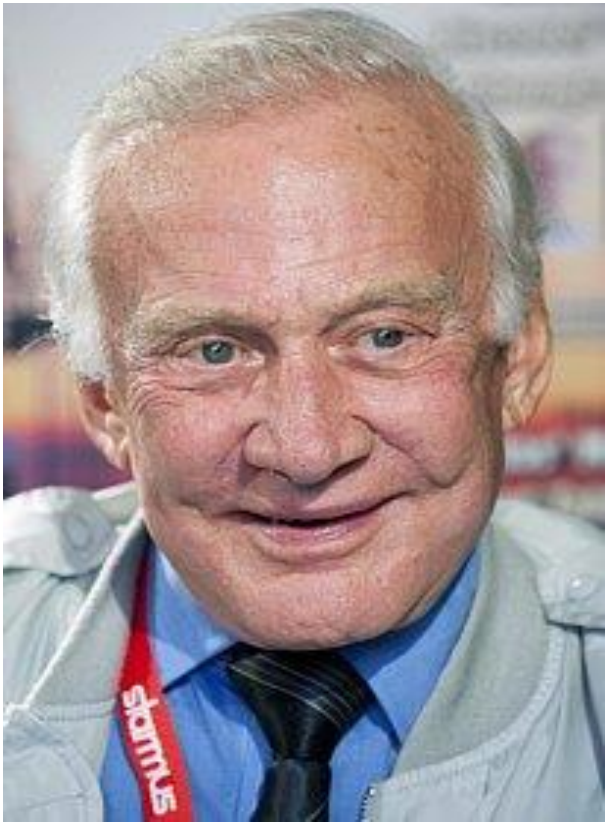
1985 Geosat

Geosat was built at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. It carried a radar altimeter that measured the distance from the satellite to the sea surface with a relative precision of about two inches. This allowed mapping of the geoid or hypothetical shape of the earth to more accurately calculate the depth of objects below the surface. The classified mission measured the effects of gravity on the trajectory of submarine-launched ballistic missiles.



1992 Geosat Follow-On Satellite

In 1992, we were selected to build the radar altimeter for the Navy's Geosat Follow-On satellite. The altimeter was a compact version of the Geosat payload. Launched in 1998, the altimeter obtained real-time ocean topographic data for the Navy and commercial users.



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin

I became a regular attendee at aerospace trade shows. At one show, I unknowingly sat next to Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who had walked on the moon. After he started conversing with the speaker, I realized it was Buzz. He had quite a lively personality. I discovered he was born at Mountainside Hospital in Glen Ridge, New Jersey where many of my family members were born.

Defense Industry Consolidation

In the mid-90s, E-Systems was acquired by Raytheon. Portions of Hughes and Texas Instruments also became part of the Raytheon organization.

1995 Scatterometer Payload on Small Satellite

In 1995, we were selected to build the electronics subsystem for SeaWinds, a spaceborne scatterometer (microwave radar) instrument integrated at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena,

California. By measuring the roughness of the sea, this instrument measured surface winds over global oceans for ocean modeling. It provided wind speeds within 5 miles per hour and directions within 20 degrees. The first SeaWinds instrument was flown on NASA's QuikSCAT satellite. The second was part of a larger suite of instruments on Japan's Advanced Earth Observing Satellite II(ADEOS II).

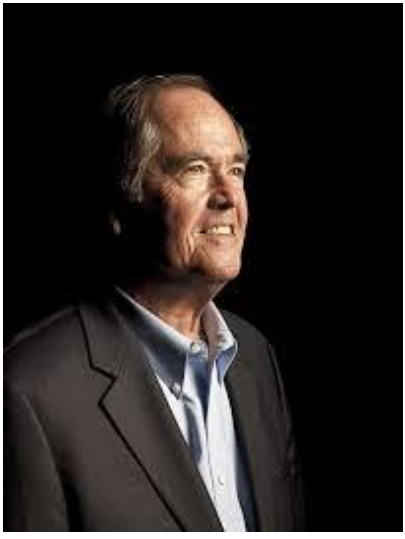
1996 Mars Pathfinder Mission with Parachute and Balloon

Building on our success with the SeaWinds program, we prepared a design for a UHF communications system for the Mars Pathfinder mission. Our guidance from NASA management was to

do it faster, cheaper and better. After meeting with JPL management, we declined to submit a proposal because our company did not want to take on the risk. Our general manager commented, “They should have teamed with Mattel.” In the end, JPL built the system themselves with off-the-shelf parts. It worked!

1995 Florida Aviation Aerospace Alliance

During the years before my retirement in 2002, I was appointed Director of the Space Subsector of the Florida Aviation Aerospace Alliance We met regularly to promote legislative actions and aerospace business activity within Florida. I was privileged to be a part of the space community during the large portion of my career.



Bob Crippen

In 2003, I put my Merritt Island house on the market. One of the prospective buyers was astronaut Bob Crippen, the pilot of the first space shuttle. Although Bob didn't buy the house, I was humbled by his appearance at our front door.

Memoir of Spring Break
1960-1961

College Bus Trip 1960

During the ‘50s, college students traveled to Fort Lauderdale, Florida for their spring vacations. Following the release of the book, movie, and song *“Where the Boys Are”* at the end of the decade, the number of vacationing students increased dramatically. Welcome to the beginning of the annual ritual known as Spring Break.

Fort Lauderdale Beach

By the early ‘80s, over 300,000 spring breakers were converging on Fort Lauderdale each year. By the late ‘80s, the number had fallen back to the ‘50s levels. This came as a result of a change in the legal drinking age and restrictions on parties. Today, spring break is a signature event at many beaches in the western world.

During the winter of 1959-1960, a group of fellow students at Seton Hall University, in South Orange, New Jersey proposed a bus

trip to Fort Lauderdale for spring break. This afforded me the opportunity to see Florida for the first time. Driving straight through, it would take nearly two days to reach our destination. The total round trip cost was $60. About 35 students were needed. I signed up! Although Seton Hall was primarily a men's school, we were able to achieve a balance by recruiting female students from nearby colleges. We had two bus drivers.

Bus to Fort Lauderdale

Our trip was planned for the week before Easter. We boarded our bus in front of Seton Hall's Walsh Auditorium about 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 10th and began our long journey to Fort Lauderdale. The Interstate Highway System was just being built so we traveled principally on older roads. Most of our time was spent on U.S. Highway 301 and U.S. Route 1.

We traveled on the New Jersey Turnpike to the single span Delaware Memorial Bridge, joining U.S. Highway 301 in Delaware.

Through the night, we rolled through the Maryland and Virginia countryside circumventing Baltimore and Washington. As I woke, the bus was approaching the North Carolina state line. We stopped for breakfast in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. It felt good to be separated from the bus for a while. Despite the all-night ride, we were still only one third of the way to Fort Lauderdale.

In North Carolina, sections of Interstate 95 were being built alongside U.S. Highway 301. On one occasion we followed an on-ramp sign to Interstate 95. It soon became a dead-end to thru traffic.

South of the Border

During the afternoon we passed the "South of the Border" attraction on the South Carolina border; a novel experience for all of us. As we entered South Carolina, we experienced the ambience of the Old South. Towns such as Dillon, Latta, and Manning, stood out as traditional southern towns of a bygone era. Today they are bypassed by Interstate 95.

Separate Bathrooms

This was a time when the civil rights movement was just beginning. The poverty along the way was apparent. I saw entire black families living in one room shacks alongside the highway. At each rest stop there were separate toilets and drinking fountains for blacks and whites. This was not New Jersey.

At nightfall, we crossed the Savannah River into Georgia. We then went through more towns of the Old South; Statesboro, Claxton, and Jesup, also bypassed by today's Interstate 95. When we reached Folkston, we joined U.S. Route 1 heading southeast toward Jacksonville; our first stop in Florida. Once in Florida, there would still be another 350 miles to go, nearly a day's drive.

As dawn broke we were heading south along Florida's east coast on U.S. Route 1. After spending the night on the bus, the randy passengers began shouting at the bus drivers to speed it up. Following a short stop near Ft. Pierce, we were on our final leg. Our bus arrived at the oceanfront motel in Ft. Lauderdale that afternoon. Tired from the long bus ride, I slowly settled into our accommodations while observing the crowds assembling at the beach. I was happy to have finally arrived. This was my first trip

to Florida and most of the fun was in getting there. The 1,300 mile trip took us about 40 hours. A similar bus trip would be about 12 hours less in 2024.

When you're painted into a corner at dinner time
Serve Swanson TV Brand Dinners
SWANSON
Only Swanson comes so close to your own home cooking

Swanson TV Dinner Ad

Pop asked me to eat well and avoid TV dinners, a concept which was fairly new. So far, I hadn't eaten very well on the bus trip. The motel had kitchen facilities and we did buy TV dinners. As microwave ovens were not in common use, we heated the TV dinners in a regular oven. I was not disappointed.

Pop was not fond of Florida. To him, it was a place with high temperatures and humidity and no business opportunities. While living in Miami in 1930, he ran the Furniture Department at Cromer-

Cassel's Department store. It was the height of the depression and there was no air conditioning. Life was different then.

Elbo Room, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

After a few days of watching the girls on the beach and drinking at Ft. Lauderdale's renowned Elbo Room, I decided to take a break from spring break.

Visiting Relatives

Mike Sadler

During my stay, I planned to rent a car and visit my cousin, Ann Sadler, her husband, Howe, and son, Michael, in Miami, then to drive to Key West. Howe had been the Publicity Director for the Miami Seaquarium when it opened in 1955. Michael was about four years younger than me and was attending high school in Coral Gables. In 1965, he graduated from the University of Miami and later moved to Atlanta, where he worked as a bond broker He was only 60 years old when he died in 2004.

One of my classmates, Ron Pelachyk, also had relatives in Miami. Ron joined me for the one day excursion.

1960 Ford Thunderbird

At the Ft. Lauderdale Airport, Ron and I rented a Ford Thunderbird and headed south on U.S. Route 1. Since Ron and I were males under age 25, a surcharge was added to the rental rate. We arrived at the Sadler's about an hour later.

4176 Ingraham Highway, Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida

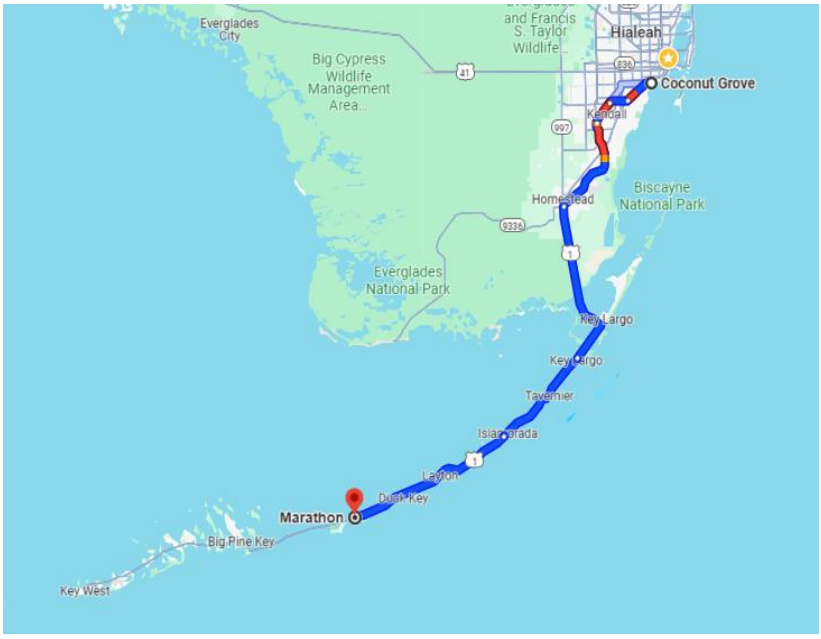
Entrance

The Sadlers lived at 4176 Ingraham Highway in the Coconut Grove section of Miami, near Biscayne Bay. The property was like images of Florida I had seen in travel magazines.

4176 Ingraham Highway, Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida

Home

The long driveway winded through tropical foliage to a turnaround in front of the house. Orchid plants were growing in the backyard. The home was open throughout with a large family area and kitchen in back. The smooth sounds from a new FM radio station provided a relaxing atmosphere with no commercials. *I sure could live here.*



Coconut Grove to Marathon with Key West at lower left

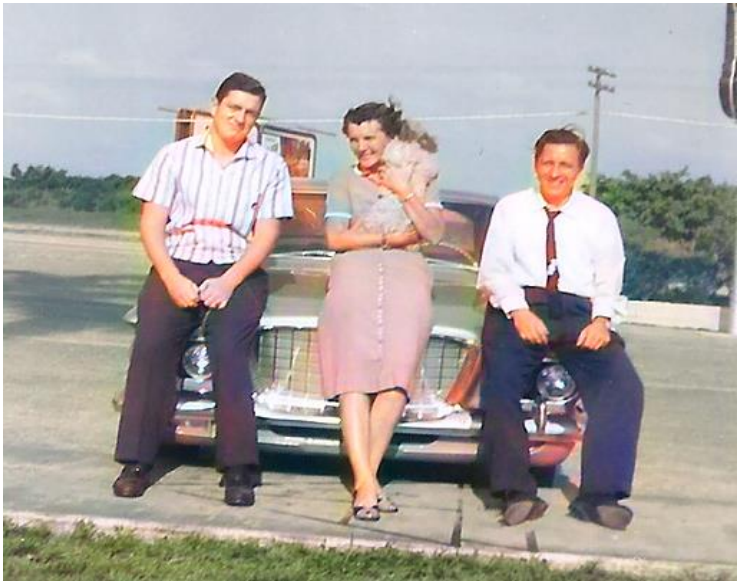
I asked Ann about driving to Key West. She suggested going only as far as Marathon, the halfway point. I did not realize that Key West was over 150 miles from Miami. Marathon was used as a base camp for construction during the building of the Florida East Coast Railroad and later the Overseas Highway to Key West.

Ann had lived in Cuba during the ‘20s and ‘30s. She moved from Havana to Miami with her mother, Edna, following the death of her stepfather, Michael Concistre, in 1940. While living in Cuba, she rode this railroad to Miami and points north after taking a steamer from Havana to Key West. The railroad was heavily

damaged and partially destroyed in the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935. Some of the trestles can be seen from the highway today.

Theater of the Sea, Islamorada, Florida

It took most of the afternoon to complete the round trip to Marathon. On the way, Ron and I stopped at the Theater of the Sea Theme Park on Islamorada, known as a "Village of Islands." On the return leg to Fort Lauderdale, we visited Ron's relatives who owned a motel along U.S. Route 1 in North Miami.



College classmate Ron Pelachyk (right) with his relatives in North Miami

At the rental car return, we noted that we would be charged by the mile. Having amassed over 350 miles, we thought we could save some money by turning back the speedometer. We disconnected the speedometer cable and tried to change the odometer. It didn't work! When we attempted to reconnect the speedometer cable. That didn't work! We ended up paying for the repair of the speedometer plus mileage. Crime does not pay!

After spending about five days in Ft. Lauderdale we headed home. As the bus made its way back through the south, it seemed like springtime was traveling with us. Blossoms and spring flowers abounded with their fresh scents and wholesome fragrances. Upon arrival home, we experienced springtime all over again.

Return by Air 1961

For spring break 1961, I decided not to go to Fort Lauderdale. Ann Sadler had invited me back so I could spend more time with her family. This time I was going to fly!

Eastern Super-Constellation Postcard

When my Higgins grandparents flew to Miami for their vacation, they sent me a postcard showing their nonstop flight from Newark was only three hours. I was amazed! I bought a ticket on Eastern Airlines for roundtrip flights between Newark, New Jersey and Miami, Florida. I would be flying for the first time! To save money, I flew at night with intermediate stops at Jacksonville and and Tampa.

Super Constellation approaching Miami

The flights added to my excitement about my upcoming flight training in the Navy. I now knew that flying would soon become my passion. And, it beat taking the bus!

After picking me up at the airport, Ann suggested that I take a nap. I must have forgotten that I was in the tropics. I was so accustomed to the cold weather that I slept with a heavy blanket.

Ann was a real matchmaker. Many of her friends were Cuban-American. One of her friends was having a party at her home. Ann had arranged to have a date waiting for me at the party. I already had a date with the daughter of another of Ann's friends, Patty Smith. I went to the party with Patty and was introduced to my other date. I was happy and somewhat surprised that the evening was uneventful with two dates.

Patty's father was a P-38 pilot during World War II. He owned a nursery filled with a variety of tropical plants. The fragrances in his yard were always very pleasant.

I remember visiting the nearby Parrot Jungle and seeing the many flamingos. We also went to the Villa Vizcaya Estate and Gardens on Biscayne Bay. Villa Vizcaya, now named the Vizcaya

Museum and Gardens, is the former villa and estate of businessman James Deering of the Deering McCormick-International Harvester fortune.

Goodbye Miami

As my flight departed for Newark, I looked down at the city lights of Miami and was saddened to leave the clean environment and warmth of tropical Florida. Circling above Newark Airport, I felt the dreariness of the low cloud cover and the colder temperatures on the ground.

After college graduation, I returned to Florida as an Aviation Officer Candidate at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. My Memoir of my Navy Career begins…